■ BUSINESS / B1

Foreign direct investments up 64% to P1.1B due to investor confidence

■ WORLD / A8

Gordon Parks, 1st US black photojournalist for Life magazine, dies at 93

■ METRO / A20

Napolcom strips Pasig mayor of control over police

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

When Pia went to the Oscars, 30 people made her over

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, March 10, 2006 ★★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 92 P18

PNP: We didn't arrest Risa, we got her out of harm's way

BAKA BUGBUGIN SIYA NG MGA KASAMAHAN NIYA!

By Luige A. del Puerto

YES, SHE WAS BODILY carried out of the rally site and brought to a police camp against her will.

But no, Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel was not "arrested," a senior po-

PNP/ A17

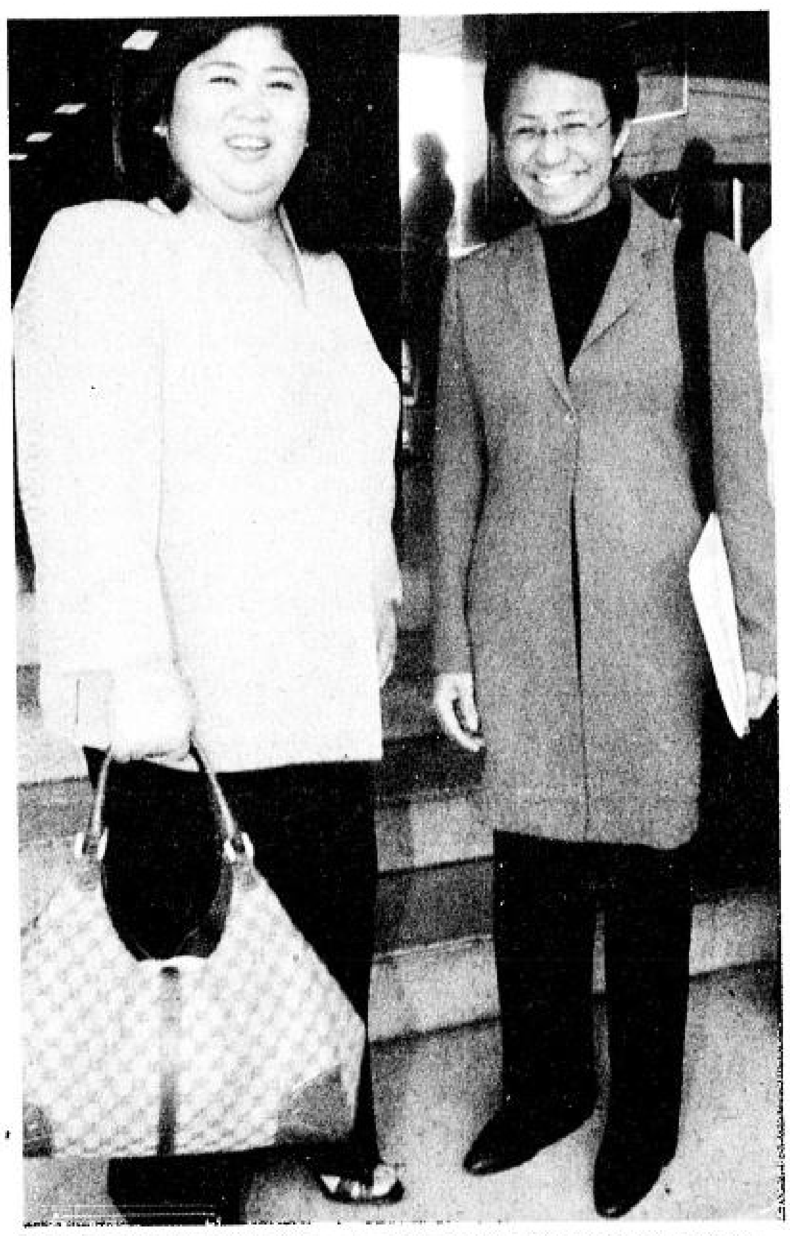
Bayan exec killed; 'Amnesty' alarmed over leftist deaths

THE CHAIR OF THE BAYAN MALOLOS (BULACAN) chapter was killed at 9 last night, even as Amnesty International yesterday said it was "gravely concerned" over the killings of left-wing activists in the Philippines and urged the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo to send a clear message to security forces that extrajudicial killings would not be tolerated.

Bayan secretary gen-

BAYAN/ A6

Crackdown in AFP widens



IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY. Jessica Soho (left), GMA 7 vice president for News and Public Affairs, and Maria Ressa, head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs, present a united front at the Senate during a hearing on the suppression of the media while Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 was in effect. JOAN BONDOC

Basilan hero, 24 others investigated

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A SCOUT RANGER CAPTAIN dubbed as a hero of the 2001 siege of Basilan has been detained along with 24 elite officers and men in what appears to be a widening crackdown in the military on those allegedly involved in the attempt to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo last month.

Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, the Army chief, and Michael Defensor, presidential chief of staff, also dismissed denials on Wednesday by Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, the sacked Scout Rangers commander, when he appeared at the National Bureau of Investigation that he had plotted the overthrow of Ms Arroyo.

Defensor told Palace reporters that an ABC-5 TV interview with Lim, in which the latter reportedly said he was withdrawing support from the President, was the spark that prompted Ms Arroyo to move against the plotters in the early morning hours of Feb. 24.

ABC-5 denied Defensor's claim. News anchor John Susi said the network did not interview Lim. "ABC-5 values the freedom of media through responsible, free and newsworthy reporting," he said in Filipino.

Esperon confirmed the arrest of Capt.

CRACKDOWN/ A7

"HERO OF THE LAMITAN SIEGE" in Basilan in 2001, Capt. Ruben Guinolbay, now the Scout Rangers' personnel chief, is one of only two officers named by the Army chief as allegedly involved in the Feb. 24 coup attempt. Guinolbay and his troops fiercely fought the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers who used their hostages as human shields to escape. PDI PHOTO

Kin of stampede victims not happy with NBI report

By Armand N. Nocum and Jocelyn R. Uy

AN ANTICRIME GROUP AND THE FAMILIES of victims and survivors of the Feb. 4 stampede at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City are not pleased with the recommendations of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Dante Jimenez, founding chair of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, yesterday said those to be held liable for criminal charges should include not only ABS-CBN chair and CEO Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III but also Senior Supt. Raul Medina, the chief of the Pasig police at the time of the stampede.

"He (Lopez) should also face similar charges," said survivor Neildrin Catubig, 30.

KIN/ A18

Palace asked ABS-CBN to stop live broadcast

By Philip C. Tubeza and TJ Burgonio

A RANKING MALACAÑANG OFficial privately asked ABS-CBN to "stop airing" last month's standoff at Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, the head of the network's News and Current Affairs division said yesterday at a Senate hearing.

The Palace official phoned a network officer at the height of the standoff on Feb. 26 and asked that ABS-CBN stop both its coverage and live broadcast of the event, Maria Ressa said.

PALACE/ A6

UNTOUCHABLE?

DOJ junks ₱151-M tax evasion case vs Lee

By Michael Lim Ubac and Armand N. Nocum

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE dismissed last year a P151-million tax evasion case against a "dummy" corporation of suspected smuggler Samuel Lee on the grounds that the Bureau of Internal Revenue had charged the company's previous batch of officers, not its current ones.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on Wednesday said that Lee was not "untouchable."

The tax evasion case against Columbia Sports Philippines Inc. was filed in April 2005 in the justice department. It took the department under Gonzalez only six months to dismiss the case.

"We find no merit in the complaint," said the four-page resolution penned by State Prosecutor Edwin Dayog on Oct. 28, 2005. It noted that the "record is replete with documentary evidence suggesting that herein respondents were not the responsible officers."

Lawyer Joan Agbeppa of the BIR's Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) task force lamented that Gonzalez's action in the case of Columbia Sports prevented the

DOJ JUNKS/ A18

The elderly look after each other with caring hands

By Blanche S. Rivera

IN HOLDING THE WITHERED, caring hand of another, even those who have been left behind feel that they are not alone.

Faced with family members leaving for work abroad, the elderly in the country are learning to care for each other through a home care assistance program of the Coalition of Services for the Elderly Inc. (Cose).

Cose, an umbrella of 45 organizations for senior citizens, has trained more than 470 home care assistants, masseurs and community gerontologists—specialists on aging and the problems of the aged—who serve the elderly in Metro Manila.

"Home Care is essentially older persons caring for older persons," said Ofelia Hispano, a volunteer caregiver from Commonwealth in Quezon City.

"There is nobody left at home to take care of us, so we will take care of ourselves," she said.

Cose relaunched its Home Care Assistance Program (HCAP) at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City yesterday to urge local government leaders to replicate the program in different cities and municipalities nationwide.

Under the HCAP, the elderly—defined by law as those 60 years and older—are trained to check blood pressure, pulse rates and other respiratory indicators, bathe and feed bedridden patients, give first aid and counsel those who are suffering from depression.

Community gerontologists are

THE ELDERLY/ A6

LIKE MOONBEAMS in their delight to have finished a grade level through the distant learning program of the DepEd's Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (BEAM), the children of the Tagakaulo tribe in Malita, Davao del Sur, look forward to the next level but that would mean hours of walking and crossing rivers. DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

'Fantastic' role model, trailblazer, buried today

By Fe Zamora and Cyril L. Bonabente
PDI Research

WHEN ESTEFANIA ALDABA-LIM is laid to eternal rest today, her six children would most probably be still thinking she would have outlived them all.

"She was so energetic we thought she'd live past 90," award-winning TV journalist Cheche Lim-Lazaro said of her mother.

Her remains are at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Interment rites will be held after the 9 a.m. Mass.

Aldaba-Lim, one of the coun-

FANTASTIC/ A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over central and western Visayas including Palawan which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy isolated rainshowers

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/03/09/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Solon's arrest delays budget

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE FUROR OVER THE purported arrest of party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel is threatening to derail approval of the 2006 budget in the House of Representatives, which is working hard against a March 20 deadline imposed by Speaker Jose de Venecia to approve the measure.

Since Monday, the House has been conducting marathon sessions on the budget proposals of the different departments and their attached agencies.

Albay Rep. Joey S. Salceda, chair of the appropriations committee, said he expected the budget, at P1.05 trillion the biggest ever for the country, to get past floor debates and plenary approval by March 20.

But just before the House opened plenary hearings on the P35.5-billion budget of the Philippine National Police, the biggest chunk of the P45.6-billion budget of the Department of Interior and Local Government, Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador served notice that he intended to turn the budget hearing into an interrogation of police and interior department officials on Baraquel's "arrest" at a women's rally last Wednesday.

"We will confront each other here," Virador told a press conference, saying he wanted the DILG and PNP officials who were at the hearing to defend their proposed budgets to explain what he called the "iron-handed" treatment of Baraquel and the six party-list representatives, including himself, who were accused of rebellion at the height of the state of emergency last week.

REP. BARAQUEL: Invited or arrested?

"They arrest you as if they were the law. They have no respect for the Bill of Rights, or the Miranda rights," said Virador who was arrested by police in the Davao City airport on Feb. 27.

Virador, who has been placed under House custody along with the five militant lawmakers threatened with arrest, said the circumstances of his arrest were "foul".

"They blocked my path, then held me by my neck. The team leader even ordered [his men] to handcuff me when I resisted," said Virador.

Baraquel fired the first salvo, berating the police soon after Bulacan Rep. Wilhelmino Alvarado finished his sponsorship speech.

"If I was just being invited, why was I accosted by two plainclothes policewomen and why did they continue to drag me even if I was already resisting?" Baraquel asked. "What kind of invitation was it when it was not conveyed?"

After consulting with Metro Manila police chief Vidal Querol, Alvarado said Baraquel was taken to Camp Karingal "to be protected."

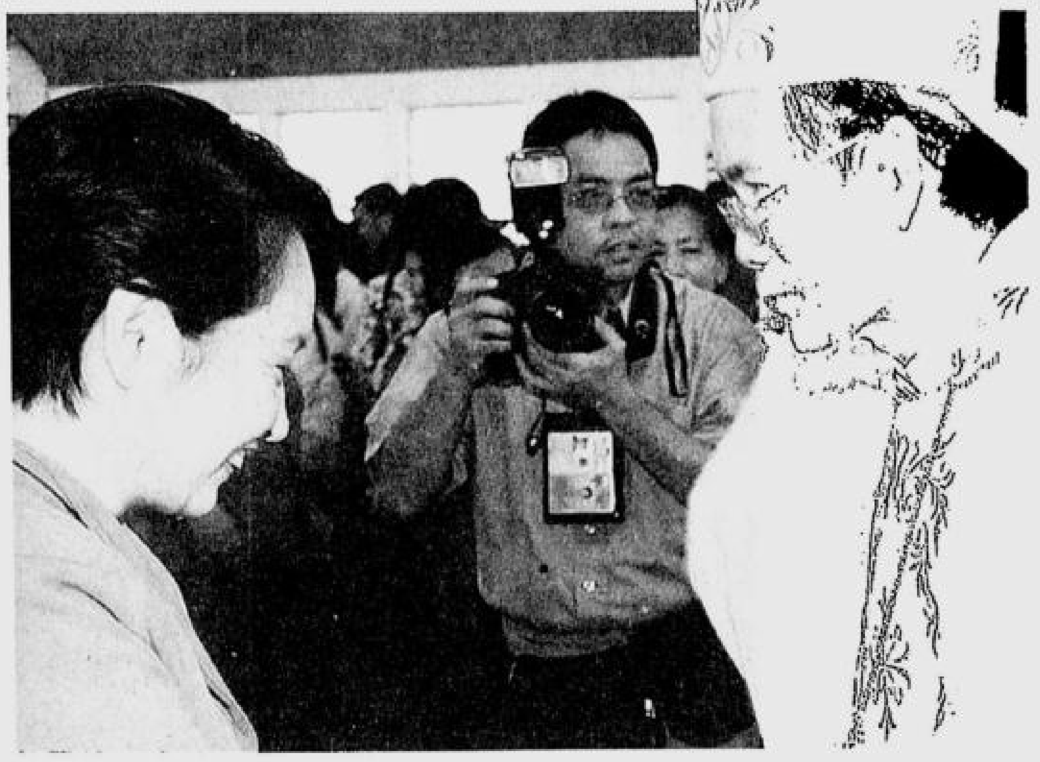
This prompted Minority Leader Francis Escudero to snap, "So... was she invited or was she protected?" He obtained the names of the two policewomen, with Alvarado promising that the police would submit the list of the other arresting officers later.

With a two-week allowance for the printing of the books accompanying the General Appropriations Act of 2006, the budget should be on the Senate floor by the first week of April, said Salceda.

The budgets of 11 departments and agencies led by the Office of the Vice President, the judiciary and the DILG were scrutinized yesterday.

Scrutiny of the budgets of the most powerful departments—the Office of the President, the budget, finance, transportation departments and the Executive Branch offices like the Office of the Press Secretary and the National Telecommunications Commission — have been reserved for the last day of the deliberations, leaving the minority with only a day to check, or protest, the budgetary increases.

With a report from Norman Bordadora



COUNSELLOR. President Macapagal-Arroyo greets Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto on his 69th birthday yesterday at the Mother of Good Counsel Seminary chapel in San Fernando Pampanga. The bishop had good counsel for Ms Arroyo: Dialogue with political groups and respect human rights. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

2 groups of news dealers at odds over PDI's new scheme

By DJ Yap

A GROUP OF NEWSPAPER DEALers announced yesterday it will boycott the Inquirer beginning March 13 if it does not drop the broadsheet's new distribution scheme.

But another group of dealers denied that a vote had taken place at the meeting, saying many of them were willing to sit down with Inquirer executives to negotiate.

The newspaper dealers were reportedly angered by the Inquirer's plan to streamline its distribution system.

Danny Jose, chair of the Print Media Dealers Organization of the Philippines (PMDO), said the new setup would relegate the group's members to "sub-dealer" status and risk their service tenure.

The Newspaper, Magazine, Comics Dealers Association of the the Philippines (NMCDAP), which claims a bigger membership than PMDO, said the decision to boycott the Inquirer was rammed through by Jose's group, which had called for the meeting yesterday at the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City.

No votation

"There was no votation at all, only a shouting match between the groups," said Philip Mendoza, acting president of NMCDAP.

In a meeting with Rene Reinoso, Inquirer senior vice president for sales and marketing, and Raymond Rivera, Inquirer Publication Inc. circulation manager, the NMCDAP said a boycott would be its last resort if the talks proved fruitless.

The group said it appreciated certain aspects of the new distribution scheme, such as the provision giving them "territorial integrity."

Reinoso said the new distribution plan was intended to ensure that there would be "no break in the supply chain."

It also seeks to eliminate "infiltrators" or dealers who penetrate markets designated for others, he said.

"They [the Inquirer] will appoint an exclusive distributor for each region and we will become sub-dealers," Jose said.

No representative of the Inquirer attended the meeting, he said. But Dave Valdes, Inquirer COO said no officer from the paper was invited.

The group had had meetings with Inquirer executives, who were "insistent" on pushing through with the plan, Jose said.

The scheme has been in operation in Central Luzon for two months now, he said.

"What we want is for the Inquirer to eliminate this system. If they go back to the old system, there will be no more problems," he said.

Any change difficult

In a statement, Valdes also explained the paper "started introducing improvements to the old distribution system to provide better service to our readers."

"We wanted to correct inefficiencies such as overpricing, late deliveries and non-availability [of newspapers]. The new system does not alienate the dealers. In fact, we have invited and will continue to invite them to join the program which we believe will further grow their businesses.

"We understand that any change is difficult. In fact, we would have welcomed the opportunity to meet with the dealers group to discuss how we can work together, but we were not invited to their meeting. At the end of the day, what is important for us is to satisfy our readers," Valdes said.

Senators justify pay hike for gov't workers

By TJ Burgonio

SENATORS YESTERDAY JUSTIfied their decision to grant a P2,000 pay increase to over one million state workers effective July 1, saying this would help them in the face of the high prices of goods and services.

Voting 14 to 3, the senators on Wednesday night approved Senate Bill No. 2196 and House Bill No. 5013 allocating P13.1 billion to fund the pay hike for the 1.3 million government employees this year.

The senators raised the pay hike to P2,000, from the P1,000 proposed by the House, on the suggestion of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had also signed on Feb. 28 Administrative Order No. 144 authorizing the grant of P1,000 in additional compensation to government employees, including policemen, soldiers, firemen and other uniformed personnel.

"If we approve a P2,000 increase, they [workers] will be getting an increase of 16.3 percent [in purchasing power] if the average pay is about P12,000 a month. Inflation this year is estimated to be 7.6 percent," Osmeña said.

The Senate and the House will have to meet in a bicameral conference to reconcile their respective versions of the wage bill.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. said the P2,000 increase to be given beginning the second half of the year would cost the government P13.1 billion. The first P1,000 which would be given the first half of the year would cost P6 billion.

The funds for the P1,000 increase would come from the 2005 reenacted budget, while the money for the P2,000 raise would come from the 2006 budget, according to Villar, chair of the Senate committee on finance.

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Erap wants live coverage on TV when he testifies

ESTRADA

DEPOSED PRESIDENT ESTRADA SAYS he wants live media coverage when he testifies in his plunder trial even as his lawyers have asked the Sandiganbayan Special Division to postpone his March 15 court appearance.

The ex-movie star said he wants his performance recorded by the media "so the people may know firsthand the truth" (sic).

"I believe the people want to know the truth," he said, adding that he would ask his lawyers to make the necessary petition.

Even as he spoke, however, his lawyer, Rene Saguisag, had already asked the court for a postponement, pleading lack of time to prepare.

"We cannot in all probability be ready on March 15 for reasons beyond our control," Saguisag said in an urgent manifestation.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said he was not surprised at the request for postponement as he noted that the real objective of the defense panel was to delay the trial.

Saguisag explained that Estrada's eye operation "caused the loss of a week of preparation."

Estrada underwent surgery to remove a conjunctival cyst in his left eye in late February.

Defense lawyer Jose Flaminiano said Estrada's doctors had said their patient should not be made to read voluminous documents while he is recuperating from his eye operation.

He said Estrada's being accused of having helped to finance the Feb. 23 aborted coup also contributed to the decision not to appear in court on March 15.

Yet another excuse cited by Saguisag was that the members of Estrada's defense team were also busy "lawyering" for other clients besides Estrada.

He again reiterated an earlier request that Estrada be transferred from his Tanay, Rizal resthouse detention to his San Juan residence for the duration of his testimony so his lawyers can ostensibly confer with him.

Estrada meanwhile defended the P8 million donation that he made to the Armed Forces units that are alleged to have been involved in the foiled coup plot.

He has admitted to giving P4 million to the First Scout Ranger Regiment, P3 million to the Marines, and P1 million to the families of the Magdalo group of soldiers being tried for the failed July 2003 coup.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group is investigating if the P8 million was used to fund the latest destabilization attempt.

Estrada said the donation was part of his commitment to the military when he was still in power.

"I promised to give scholarships to the soldiers' children and for their family expenses," he said.

He said his Saludo sa Kawal Pilipino Foundation was organized for this purpose. *Nelson F. Flores*

New election to settle LP row — Defensor

By Christine O. Avendaño

HOW TO SOLVE THE ROW AT THE Liberal Party? Hold new elections, according to Presidential Chief of Staff and newly installed party chair Michael Defensor yesterday.

Defensor, who belongs to the LP faction that launched last week a coup that ousted Senate President Franklin Drilon as party president, said his group was amenable to the holding of new elections to settle the row within the party.

"The solution here is simple. All we need to do is to call all our members and hold elections," he told reporters in Malacañang.

The party has been split since July last year when the faction of Drilon called for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The move taken by Drilon was not supported by the LP faction of party chair, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who last week held elections and ousted Drilon from the leadership. President Arroyo led the oath-taking of the new party officials under Atienza's leadership.

But Defensor said the holding of new elections will settle "once and for all" the row between the two factions.

BIR sacks 4 employees for corruption

FOUR EMPLOYEES OF THE BUREAU OF INternal Revenue have been dismissed from service for corruption, the finance department said yesterday.

The BIR employees were found to have collection shortfalls or misappropriated government funds, the finance department, the head agency of the BIR, reported.

The dismissed BIR employees include Melanda B. Alid, Nelida F. Jabile, Aida B. Rey and Emilio K. Espacio.

"This is part of our continuing efforts to cleanse the ranks of rotten eggs. This should show that the government is ready to crack the whip for a more honest and efficient bureaucracy," said Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza Jr. who chairs the DOF's Board of Personnel Inquiry and Review.

According to the DOF statement, Alid, former revenue collection agent for the municipalities of Baliguian and Siocon in Zamboanga del Norte, was found to have incurred a cash shortfall of P2.38 million for the periods January 1990 to October 1991, and January 1992 to June 1999.

The DOF said Alid failed to remit the shortfalls despite repeated demands.

Fabile, the revenue collection agent for San Jose, Antique, allegedly tampered with official receipts and misappropriated funds, among other offenses.

Rey, the revenue collection officer assigned in Iloilo City, was found to have incurred shortages amounting to P1.65 million for the period covering June 2000 to May 2001, and August 2001 to August 2002, the DOF said.

The government agency added that Rey failed to account for 579 sets of official receipts. Rey, who is not on official leave and has not resigned, has not shown up for work since April 2003. *Michelle V. Remo*

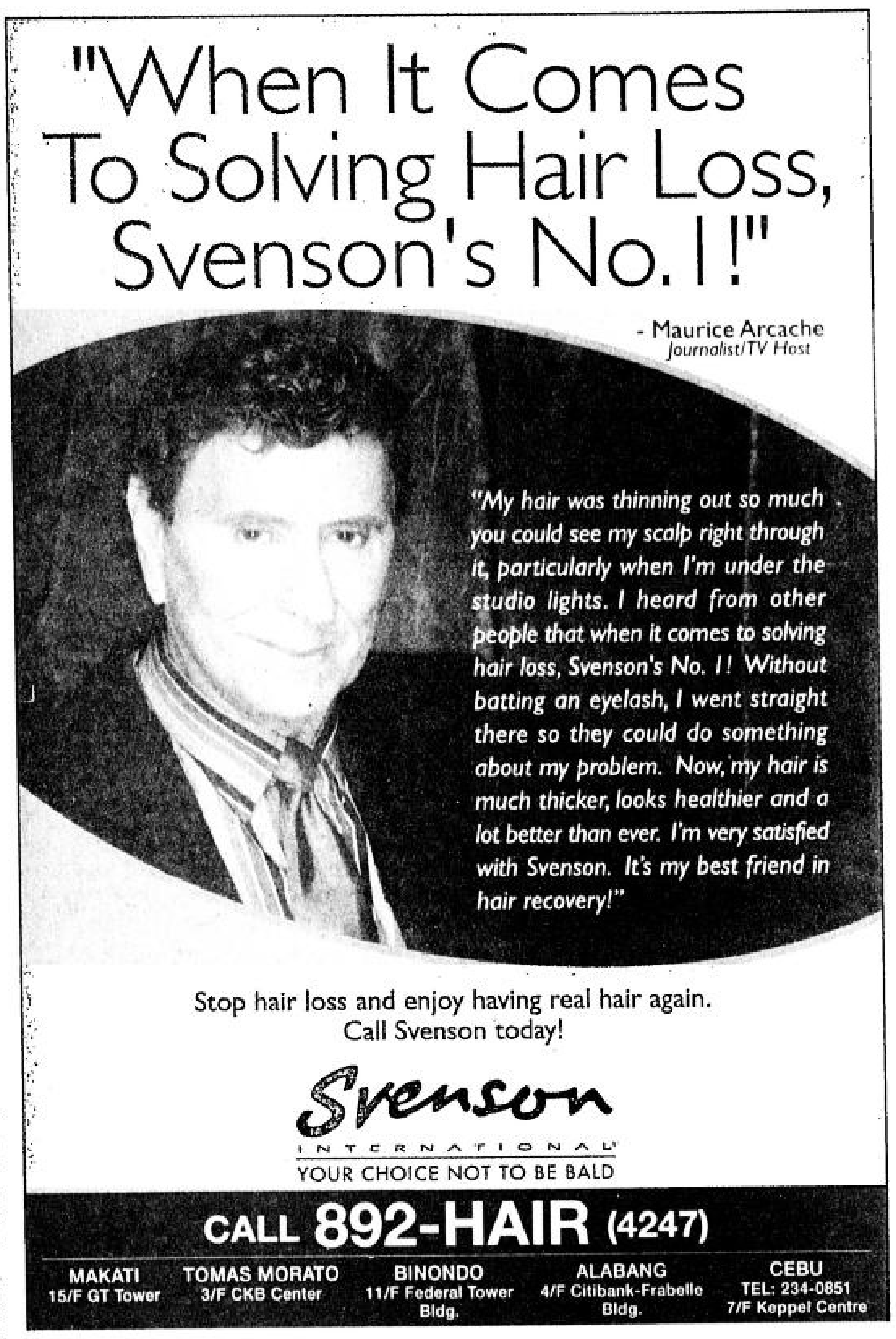
GMA aide takes over as spy chief

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S SEnior military aide assumed command of the controversial Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) yesterday as Isafp chief Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo retired from the service.

Commodore Leonardo Calderon, reportedly a relative of Ms Arroyo, was supposed to take over Isafp nine months ago when Quevedo was sacked last June 8, or two days after Malacañang released the explosive "Hello Garci" wiretapped tapes.

Quevedo, who was apparently blamed when the wiretapped conversations between the President and elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano tapes got into the opposition's hands, however managed to hang on to his post until he reached the mandatory retirement age of 56 yesterday.

With Ms Arroyo's trusted military aide taking over Isafp, the military is expected to remain reluctant to investigate the "Hello Garci" scandal that raised questions about Ms Arroyo's elections victory.



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Environment groups to sue Reyes

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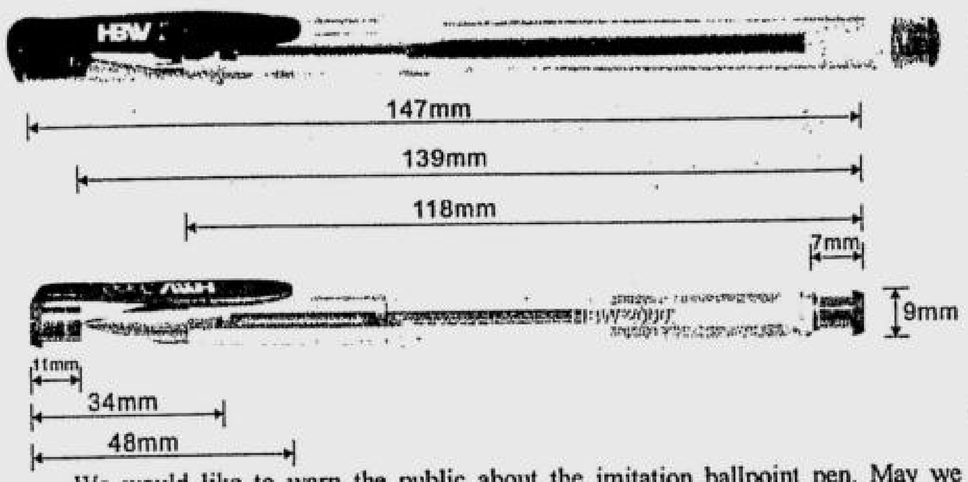

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By Blanche S. Rivera

REYES

LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER assuming his new post, Secretary Angelo Reyes has been threatened with his first lawsuit by environmentalists whose cause he vowed to protect when he took over the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Sixteen environmental organizations under the Ecological Waste (Ecowaste) Coalition served Reyes with a notice to sue on Wednesday for his alleged failure to close down some 1,000 open and controlled dumps that should have ceased operating by Feb. 16, 2006.

A notice to sue is a prerequisite to filing a citizen's complaint against parties that do not comply with Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The Ecowaste Coalition gave Reyes 30 days to shut down the unsanitary dumps or face charges of violating Section 37 of RA 9003, which mandates the conversion of open dumps to controlled dumps by 2004 and of controlled dumps to sanitary landfills by 2006.

"It is in this light that we call on you to immediately implement the provisions of Section 37, it being a duty expressly imposed by RA 9003 upon the DENR," said the Ecowaste Coalition in its three-page notice to sue.

"Your failure to do so within the 30-day period... will compel us much to our regret to institute a citizen's suit against you to compel you to perform your duty under the law," the group said.

Open dumps should have been closed by Feb. 16, 2004, and controlled dumps by Feb. 16, 2006, but there are still 996 dumps operating all over the country, according to the National Solid Waste Management Commission.

In his first press briefing on Feb. 16, Reyes said he would support local government officials' moves to extend the deadline for the closure of all dumps, citing the inability of local governments to build landfills and materials recovery facilities.

Ecowaste lawyer Amang Mejia said the citizen's suit provided for under Section 52 of RA 9003 is a potent tool to hold government officials accountable for their failure to implement RA 9003.

"It is time to invoke this provision because RA 9003 has been violated repeatedly since it became law in February 2001," Mejia said in a statement.

Hunt is on for general's wife, sons

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN SHERIFF YESTERday launched a hunt for the family of former Armed Forces of the Philippines comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia (ret.) a day after the antigraft court issued warrants for their arrest in connection with the P303-million plunder case filed against them by the Ombudsman nearly a year ago.

Sheriff Ed Urieta said the warrants would be served at the last known address of Garcia's wife Clarita and their sons Ian Carl, Juan Paulo and Timothy Mark in Iloilo. He said copies of the warrants would be given to the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Immigration.

Urieta said he had received information that Clarita and Ian Carl were in the country while Juan Paulo and Timothy Mark were abroad.

"We are still verifying this information," Urieta said.

On Wednesday, the Sandiganbayan Second Division ordered the arrest of Garcia's wife and sons and recommended no bail for them.

The court issued the arrest orders after it upheld the Ombudsman's finding of probable cause to prosecute the accused for conspiracy to amass at least P303.2 million in alleged ill-gotten wealth between 1993 and 2004.

Aside from the plunder case, the Garcias are facing a P143-million forfeiture case in the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division.

The Ombudsman had also filed four perjury cases against the retired general for alleged misdeclaration of wealth.

Last year, a general court-martial sentenced Garcia to two years at hard labor after he was found guilty of corruption. He was also dishonorably discharged and his pay and allowances, including his pension, were forfeited.

Garcia is detained at Camp Crame.

BEHOLD..JESUS is COMING!

"Look, I am coming soon Blessed are those who obey the prophecy written in this scroll."

I, John, am the one who saw and heard all these things. And when I saw and heard these things, I fell down to worship the angel who showed them to me. But again he said, "No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers the prophets, as well as all who obey what is written in this scroll. Worship God!"

Then he instructed me, "Do not seal up the prophetic words you have written, for the time is near. Let the one who is doing wrong continue to do wrong; the one who is vile, continue to be vile; the one who is good, continue to do good; and the one who is holy, continue in holiness."

"See, I am coming soon, and my reward is with me, to repay all according to their deeds. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

Blessed are those who wash their robes so they can enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life. Outside the city are the dogs --- the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshipers, and all who love to live a lie.

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne.
* I am the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let each one who hears them say, "Come." Let the thirsty ones come --- anyone who wants to. Let them come and drink the water of life without charge. And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the prophetic words of this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book. And if anyone removes any of the words of this prophetic book, God will remove that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book.

He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!"

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

Revelation 22: 7 to 21

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WORSHIP and GLORIFY JESUS CHRIST..!

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, A FRONT-PAGE STORY – "ONE WOMan in women's mind on Women's Day" – had an erroneous translation of a Filipino quote attributed to Carol P. Araullo, chair of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan. Araullo's actual quote was: "Pinapakita niya (Ms Arroyo) ang pinakamasahol na katangian ng machong lalake na hambog." The English translation should have been: "She (Ms Arroyo) shows the worst qualities of an overbearing macho male" – not "She (GMA) shows the worst qualities of masochists."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, March 10, 2006
1st Week of Lent

1st Reading: Ex 18:21-28
Gospel: Matthew 5:20-26

Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you, then, that if you are not righteous in a much broader way than the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

"You have heard that it was said to our people in the past: Do not commit murder; anyone who does kill will have to face trial. But now I tell you: whoever gets angry with a brother or sister will have to face trial. Whoever insults a brother or sister deserves to be brought before the council; whoever calls a brother or a sister 'Fool' deserves to be thrown into the fire of hell. So, if you are about to offer your gift at the altar and you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with him, and then come back and offer your gift to God.

"Don't forget this: be reconciled with your opponent quickly when you are together on the way to court. Otherwise he will turn you over to the judge, who will hand you over to the police, who will put you in jail. There you will stay, until you have paid the last penny."

Commentary

We must look to ourselves and change. God desires us to repent and stop doing evil in our lives, so that we might live both now and forever with God. We are to, in turn, start to do virtuous deeds. These exhortations of the prophet echo our second baptismal promise: Do you promise to resist evil and refuse to be mastered by any sin, evil, violence or injustice? Jesus reinforces this, saying that not only is the act evil but the intent behind it. We are not to kill, not with intention, words, slander, lies or abusive language, let alone actually murdering another. We must stop killing, be reconciled before we dare approach God in prayer.

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   d. BIR/VAT Certificate
   e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
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General Manager

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(PDI - March 10 & 17, 2006)

PCGG to hale Sandigan to SC on Lucio Tan cases

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD Government said yesterday it would ask the Supreme Court to reverse a recent Sandiganbayan decision ordering the government to lift a sequestration order on four companies owned by taipan Lucio Tan.

PCGG Commissioner Narciso Nario said the commission was unfazed by the setback and that issue of sequestration of Tan's companies was not over.

"This is subject to an appeal to the Supreme Court through the Solicitor General. We will elevate this to the SC as this is the final arbiter," Nario told reporters.

He added that only the Supreme Court could order them to finally lift the sequestration on Tan's companies.

PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio was to meet with other PCGG officials late yesterday.

The PCGG is the agency tasked to recover the allegedly ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies.

In a March 2 decision released Wednesday, the Sandiganbayan ordered the government to cease further involvement in the control and management of Allied Banking Corp., Fortune Tobacco Corp., Foremost Farms and Shareholdings Inc.

In a statement issued after the decision came out, Tan said he would get back at past officials of the PCGG involved in the sequestration of his flagship companies, citing former PCGG Chair Jovito Salonga.

Salonga dismissed Tan's threat. "I am distinguished by the kind of enemies I make," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

PCGG Commissioner William Dichoso said Tan could not go after the agency itself or its present officials because they were protected by the provisions of Executive Order No. 1 which created the agency. President Corazon Aquino issued the order shortly after she assumed power in 1986.

Tan's companies were sequestered by the PCGG a few months after the 1986 Edsa revolution on suspicion he was a crony of the deposed dictator and served as his business front. Tan has denied the allegations.

"That is his defense. That is how he wants to present himself. But the final arbiter is the Supreme Court," Nario said.

Meanwhile, Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) said the PCGG should "still pursue the sequestration case against Lucio Tan."

"It should file a motion for reconsideration and give the money back to the victims of martial law. It should do its homework and get back the ill-gotten wealth by all means," Ramos said.

He added: "The PCGG should stop being a wallflower and work for the interest of the Filipino people."

The PCGG seized Allied Bank on June 19, 1986 on the strength of a writ signed by then PCGG Chair Salonga and the Commissioner Ramon Diaz.

On July 24, 1986, the PCGG also took control of Fortune Tobacco and Shareholdings Inc. based on writs of sequestration signed by Diaz and then Commissioner Quintin Doromal.

The last to be seized was Fortune Farms which was served a writ on Aug. 12, 1986 based on authority signed by Diaz and then Commissioner Mary Concepcion Bautista.

After the four companies were placed under PCGG sequestration, Tan said Allied Bank suffered at least three bank runs. He also said Foremost Farms lost 11,000 hogs while Fortune suffered "big losses."

Solons reject Angara proposal on Cha-cha

By Michael Lim Ubac

EVEN BEFORE IT COULD TAKE OFF, SEN. Edgardo Angara's proposal for a snap election—which in effect would cut short the terms of the country's two highest officials—was promptly shot down by the majority in the House of Representatives.

Congressional leaders yesterday dismissed Angara's proposal as "recycled and baseless."

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., vice chair of the Commission on Appointments, recalled that the idea was first raised by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. last year during the Senate inquiry into the "jueteng" scandal which implicated members of the First Family.

Pichay pointed out the suggestion was resurrected at the height of the "Hello Garci" wiretapping inquiry by the House, also last year, which nearly crippled the Arroyo administration.

"New laws are prospective and not retroactive in nature, meaning any move to amend the Constitution should have no impact on the terms of the sitting president and vice president," Pichay said.

He said he had "such a high regard for the legal mind of Senator Angara but it would be best if he restudied his position on the matter."

Any proposal that would shorten the President's term would not be supported by the House majority although they favor Charter change and a shift to a unicameral legislature, according to Majority Leader Prospero Nograles.

Angara, the leader of Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, the largest mainstream opposition party, refused to be embroiled in a tiff with allies of the President.

He said the nation should not be deprived of a "great debate" on his proposal to amend the Constitution but limit the changes to revamping the Commission on Elections and holding early presidential polls, which would cut short Ms Arroyo's and Vice President Noli de Castro's terms.

"The proposal should generate further debate and discussion, so that we will be able to get as wide a spectrum as possible on these important issues," Angara said in a phone interview.

Speaker Jose de Venecia and the House majority want to abolish the two "gridlock prone" chambers of Congress and replace them with a French-style unicameral parliament headed by a powerful prime minister.

But under their proposal, President Arroyo would remain in office until the end of her term in 2010.

Nograles said Angara's proposal was "not provided for by law and it will be an expense that will not cure the problem"—which is that those against the President will not stop trying to oust her.

"Let's just follow the Constitution which set her six-year mandate and we won't have problems," he said.

Appeals court junks plea vs Philcomsat land deal

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS DISMISSED A complaint against sequestered firm Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) and its subsidiary, Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC), over a land deal with a private company.

The appeals court's First Division threw out the petition filed by Philcomsat minority shareholders led by Victor Africa against Philcomsat director and PHC president Manuel H. Nieto Jr. over a memorandum of agreement signed with Ansear Realty and Development Corp. (Ansear).

The agreement, which was signed in August 2000, calls for Philcomsat's acquisition of 12 parcels of land along Investment Drive in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, totaling 65,737 square meters for P755.97 million at P11,500 per square meter.

The MOA allowed Philcomsat to acquire the property through a possible merger with Ansear. However, if the merger does not push through, the MOA shall be in the form of a loan extended to Ansear president Antonio Araneta to be amply secured via a deed of real estate mortgage executed by Ansear.

Philcomsat extended a P390-million loan to Araneta with an initial disbursement of P265 million while PHC shelled out another loan for the balance. The loan was for settling the existing liabilities of Ansear for the Alabang property.

For his part, Araneta issued an interest-bearing promissory note as well as a deed of real estate mortgage in favor of Philcomsat for five parcels of the Alabang property as additional security.

The Africa group had questioned the deal saying the deal was not duly ratified by the company's board and stockholders.

Africa and a group of minority shareholders had formed their own board at Philcomsat and refused to recognize the original board of directors led by the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The Africa group had first filed a complaint against Nieto and Philcomsat's majority shareholders in 2002 before the Branch 64 of the Metropolitan Trial Court of Makati City over the land deal which was dismissed for lack of merit. A subsequent motion for reconsideration was likewise dismissed.

No mandatory rest days for Singapore maids

SINGAPORE—SINGAPORE'S MANpower ministry rejected calls to make rest days for maids mandatory, arguing it would inconvenience families with special needs, The Straits Times newspaper reported Thursday.

"Some households have elderly or infirm members with special needs who require constant attention and may find it difficult to release the domestic worker for a prescribed period every week," said Hawazi Daipi, senior parliamentary secretary for manpower, in Parliament on Wednesday.

Instead, Hawazi said, the government wanted consumer watchdog bodies and maid employment agencies to implement standard employment contracts that stipulate monthly or weekly rest days.

The ministry's refusal to legislate days off for maids came as a disappointment to activists who have been calling for domestic workers to be protected under the city-state's Employment Act, which states how many days rest an employee is entitled to each week, the newspaper said.

US-based Human Rights Watch said in a report in December that many foreign maids in Singapore endure harsh working conditions as well as severe abuse such as physical and sexual violence, and aren't protected adequately by labor laws. *AP*

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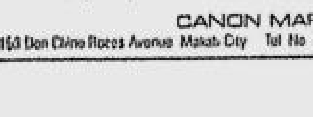

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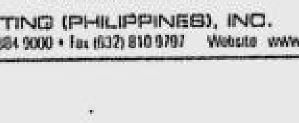

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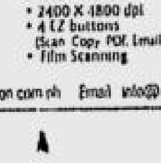

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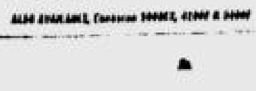

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Palace asked ABS-CBN to stop live broadcast

From page A1

Ressa said that after the Palace official was rebuffed, Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, aired a public appeal for all journalists to stop covering the event, which ABS-CBN also turned down.

Ressa, along with other media executives, testified at the inquiry of the Senate committee on justice and human rights into the government crackdown on the media during the state of emergency declared by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24-March 3.

Chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo, the committee opened the inquiry after senators filed a resolution condemning the raid on The Daily Tribune newspaper office and the warrantless arrests of protesters and party-list lawmakers.

The committee is specifically tasked to look into a meeting of the members of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas called by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

The meeting was called supposedly to discuss the possible revocation of the franchise (or the takeover) of media companies engaging in biased reporting or publication of matters affecting national security, the raid on the Tribune and the 6 p.m. curfew imposed on the Malacañang Press Corps.

Info critical in crisis

On Feb. 26, a group of Marines led by Col. Ariel Querubin massed at Fort Bonifacio to protest the relief of Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, their commandant.

They returned to barracks after a six-hour standoff.

"On Sunday, during the Fort [Bonifacio] standoff, we did receive a phone call from the administration asking us to stop airing," Ressa said at the Senate hearing.

"[The message] was very short. It was 'Please stop broadcasting.' And then when it was relayed to me, I just said, 'No, we can't. We can't stop broadcasting.' And then we went ahead," she said.

Ressa said network officials felt that if they stopped their coverage, it would have caused "far more panic among people, because they would want to see what's going on."

She added: "Information in times of crisis becomes more critical. We did not listen to it. A public appeal was made by Secretary Defensor asking the media to stop covering it.

"Even that public appeal I questioned because it again goes against the freedom of the press. There is a legitimate conflict, whether internal or external, and it had national repercussions for the Filipino public, and we continued airing as is."

Ressa said the network officer who spoke with the Palace official immediately turned down the request and did not need to consult with other ABS-CBN executives.

"It was an immediate response ... There were several key decisions made that day, given Presidential Proclamation No. 1017. The first one was: 'Do we air Querubin's statement?'" she said.

"Our decision-making tried very hard to balance everything because there is freedom of speech for everyone. At the same time, there is the interest of the state, and the Filipino public. We were balancing everything," she said.

Jessica Soho, GMA 7 vice president for news and public affairs, said her network did not get a call from Malacañang.

Repeal urged

While their predecessors might have inadvertently agreed to it, executives of the rival networks ABS-CBN and GMA 7 now want a provision in their franchise repealed because it allows the President to take over broadcast stations in times of emergency.

The provision states: "A special right is reserved to the President of the Philippines in time of war, rebellion, public peril, or other national emergency, when public safety requires, to cause the closing of said stations or to authorize the use and operation thereof by any department of the government without compensation to the grantee for the use of said stations during the continuance of the national emergency."

The network executives yesterday sought the repeal of the provision, arguing that it was unconstitutional and an assault on press freedom.

Senator Arroyo agreed with the executives that it was unconstitutional, but stressed that the Senate had to hear the government side before making a decision.

However, NTC Commissioner Ronald Solis and his deputy commissioners, as well as Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao, skipped the hearing, citing different reasons.

Arroyo reminded the broadcasting industry that the NTC did not exercise any powers beyond allocating frequencies once a congressional franchise was granted, and collecting fees.

"I personally think that this [provision] is unconstitutional. I can understand the mind-set of the franchisees when the franchise was given to them. And [since] it's there, the tendency is just to accept it," said ABS-CBN external counsel Mario Bautista.

"Even under martial law, the Bill of Rights is not suspended," he stressed.

Arroyo brought up the provision, which is found in the franchise granted by Congress to broadcast companies, in the context of asking the resource persons if the President could arbitrarily take over stations during a national emergency.

No arbitrary takeover

Dick Perez, GMA 7 vice president for legal matters, contended that the President could not arbitrarily take over a broadcast station under a national emergency if any of its reporters erred in his or her reportage.

"We agree that the commission by a particular broadcaster of sedition or rebellion should not result in the closure of the entire station or a takeover," Perez said.

After hearing their lawyers' arguments, the heads of the two networks' news departments asked the Senate to take steps to repeal this provision in their franchise.

"It will be in our best interest, in my humble opinion, if you take that section out," Soho told Arroyo.

Said Ressa: "I'm not a lawyer, but obviously, as head of news, I would love to see this repealed. I do think this goes against not just the Philippine Constitution and the Bill of Rights; it goes against press freedom issues."

But KBP executive vice president Reggie Jularbal said the President's takeover of the media during a national emergency would be temporary.

"While we would prefer that the provision not be there, in the current situation, we interpret that to mean ... that the takeover is only temporary, as it's stated there, and only for the purpose of providing information to the public," he said.

Infirmity

After the hearing, Arroyo said there was "a constitutional infirmity" in the provision.

"It cannot be imposed. Even if it's there, the President cannot just take over television stations," he said.

But he added that he had to first listen to the views of NTC officials.

"You boxed yourselves in here by agreeing to Section 5, which has been there for 10, 15 years. I don't want the government saying, 'Look, why is Congress reneging on what it granted?'" he told the broadcast executives.

Arroyo also said he hoped Lomibao and the NTC commissioners would attend the next hearings on the print media and radio.

Don't invoke 464

He warned that his committee would be forced to come out with a resolution even if these officials boycotted the proceedings.

"We regret that General Lomibao and Commissioner Solis did not come when they are the regulators, or the offices that the President used to, well, limit press freedom," he said.

"So we will give them a chance, and I hope they do not invoke [Executive Order No.] 464," he added, referring to the President's order barring government officials from testifying at congressional inquiries without her say-so.

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Bayan exec killed; Amnesty Int'l alarmed

From page A1

eral Renato Reyes identified the victim as Santiago Teodoro. "He was the 12th activist killed in Central Luzon this year," Reyes said.

Central Luzon police chief Alex Lapinid confirmed Teodoro was killed at the boundary of Malolos and Plaridel.

Reyes said Teodoro was in a car when a motorcycle blocked its path. "He got hit in the neck," Reyes said.

In its statement earlier, Amnesty International said comments by senior government officials linking leftist groups directly to communist insurgents threatened "to create a climate within which further political killings may take place."

"Amnesty International continues to be gravely concerned at reports of an ongoing pattern of political killings of members of legal leftist organizations in various provinces nationwide," the statement said.

It urged the government to conduct prompt, thorough and impartial investigations of all the killings.

"In order to combat impunity, the authorities must also send a clear, unequivocal message to all members of the police, military and other security forces that involvement in, or acquiescence to, such unlawful killings will never be tolerated," it said.

The Associated Press quoted the main left-wing party, Bayan Muna, as saying that more than 80 of its members and officers had been assassinated over the past five years—including 32 last year.

95 killed since '01

But an INQUIRER count, based on recent news reports and a special report previously posted on the webpage of Bayan Muna, showed that up to 95 officers and members of various leftist groups had been killed since April 15, 2001.

Bayan Muna has accused the military of instigating the killings and organizing death squads, a charge repeatedly denied by military officials.

The party is led by Rep. Satur Ocampo, former spokesperson of the communist-led National Democratic Front.

Ocampo and four other leftist legislators have been holed up at the House of Representatives since Feb. 27, three days after Ms Arroyo declared a state of emergency to thwart an alleged coup plot. Ms Arroyo lifted the emergency a week later.

The police have threatened to arrest the five legislators if they step out of the House of Representatives compound.

Amnesty International said that in connection with Ms Arroyo's emergency decree, the "political Left in particular may have been targeted for a repeated series of arrests on a variety of spurious charges."

Police have arrested a former labor leader, Rep. Crispin Beltran of the Anakpawis party, and charged him with rebellion.

Beltran release urged

Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante, chair of the House committee on human rights, yesterday urged the government to release Beltran and place him under house arrest on humanitarian grounds.

"Congressman Beltran is already old and sickly. If they can't release him altogether, why not just place him under house arrest," Abante told reporters.

The military has accused Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and other left-wing groups of supporting the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which has been waging an insurgency for 36 years.

Restrictions

Amnesty International reminded the Arroyo administration that restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly during emergencies should be "strictly proportional to the dangers posed to the rights and freedoms of others."

It said that in the government's counterinsurgency operations, arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial executions and torture by security forces continue to be reported along with abuses by the NPA. *With reports from AP, Norman Bordadora and Luige del Puerto*

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The elderly look after . . .

From page A1

those who not only undergo training in health care but also in the social sciences. They are the elderly who are taught where to refer other old people who may need assistance from government and private geriatric clinics.

Feeling unloved

"The problem of old people is that they feel nobody loves them anymore. Their children are always out working, and depression sets in. What we do is we listen to them, let them talk about their youth and things they love," home care assistant Felicidad de la Cruz said.

"All they really need is time," she said.

The Philippines is one of the top labor exporters in the world, with about 1,500 Filipinos leaving for abroad every day. The country is the world's No. 1 source of nurses and health care workers.

Doubled-edged problem

This leaves many of the country's 5.4 million old people without care. They have the added burden of having to care for their grandchildren left behind by their children.

"The migrants leave older persons and force them to take care of others they left behind. That's a double-edged problem for elders," said Josefina Cabigon, a Cose board director and Sociology professor at the University of the Philippines.

Home care volunteers in the community are trained to take care of more vulnerable older people who may not have companions at home during the day. They regularly check in on their "patients" and friends.

"Everyone grows old, but as long as you have a vision and a mission for yourself, you will not get depressed" De la Cruz said.

The 69-year-old retired teacher serves in the Roxas district in Quezon City where she has five patients. This she does even while caring for her 74-year-old diabetic sister who suffered a stroke.

Nanny to grandchildren

Gerontologist Crispolo Migriño, 62, plays nanny to his two wheelchair-bound grandchildren. One is obese and another has polio. Both of them rely on Migriño and his wife for support.

Migriño, a former salesman who has four children and nine grandchildren, said he decided to render community service since 1997 because he felt that after having sent his children to school, it was time to serve beyond the confines of his home.

"This is our way of giving back to God what He has given us. Being healthy at this age is already a blessing," De la Cruz said.

Making up for shortcomings

Lumen Babista has another reason for serving as home care assistant in Commonwealth. Caring for other old people is her way of making up for her shortcomings in providing care for her late mother.

"It makes me happy to see them waiting for me. I don't need any payment for this kind of work. A simple 'thank you' is enough for me," she said.

De la Cruz, a music teacher for 29 years, likes to sing in a way that lifts spirits.

"No man is an island. No man stands alone. Each man's joy is joy to me. Each man's grief is my own. Each man is my brother. Each man is my friend," she sings in a lilting tone.

Crackdown in AFP widens; 25 held

From page A1

Ruben Guinolbay, personnel chief, and Lt. Col. Nestor Flordeliza, chief of staff, both of the Scout Rangers. He said the two had been relieved of their posts.

"Being a good officer cannot be a license to do unauthorized activities," said Esperon of Guinolbay. "There is probable cause to investigate him. He is being investigated."

Esperon told a news conference at Fort Bonifacio that several other officers and men of the Scout Rangers were being held and were undergoing investigation but declined to give details other than that one of them was a lieutenant colonel.

He said he would announce in two or three days the names of those to be court-martialed for their involvement in the plot to oust Ms Arroyo two weeks ago.

Sources who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters said that in addition to Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Maj. Jason Aquino, eight other officers and 17 men had been detained in three military camps in connection with the alleged plot to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo.

Twenty-four of the detained officers and men belonged to the Scout Rangers, the Army's foremost fighting unit. One of the soldiers detained belonged to the Special Operations Command.

Inquiry still in progress

"I will confirm to you that we are investigating several officers from the Scout Rangers ... It is a matter of an investigation in progress," Esperon said.

"We are trying to investigate their links or probable participation in marching down the streets. What we have is not conclusive so we want to be very thorough about it because we want to be certain that when we throw the full force of [the] law against them, they are getting punished for what they have done," he added.

INQUIRER sources said that four of the officers were being held at Scout Rangers headquarters in Camp Tecson in San Miguel, Bulacan, two in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, and the other two officers and 17 enlisted personnel at the Army 9th Infantry Division in Pili, Camarines Sur.

"They are restricted awaiting recommendations of the Army Inspector General who investigated them," said one official who asked not to be named.

Guinolbay gained prominence in the now infamous June 2001 "Lamitan siege" in Basilan where his troops fiercely fought with Abu Sayyaf rebels who were eventually cornered in a hospital-church compound. The rebels were able to escape using their hostages as human shields. The hostages included three Americans, seized from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

Gold Cross awardee

Guinolbay, who lost a number of his men in the battle, was awarded the Gold Cross, the military's third highest combat award, and was referred to as the "hero of the Basilan siege."

Esperon said Flordeliza was being investigated "for failure to report unauthorized activities."

Lim was relieved as Scout Ranger commander on Feb. 23 after he and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin reportedly informed Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga of their plan to join the protest rallies on Feb. 24 and withdraw support from the President.

Although Lim had been previously linked to coup plots, he had risen quickly to become one of the youngest officers to attain star rank.

Ms Arroyo proclaimed a state of national emergency early on Feb. 24, citing an alliance of communist New People's Army guerrillas, rebel soldiers, politicians and businessmen plotting to overthrow her.

She lifted the proclamation a week later, saying the plot had been aborted.

The 58-year-old President has been hounded by questions of legitimacy since last year over allegations stemming from the "Hello Garci" wiretaps that she stole the 2004 election. She has denied the charges.

In his appearance at the NBI, Lim said he was neither part of a coup plot nor of an alleged alliance between military and communist rebels.

Aquino, Lim's former operations chief, was arrested on Feb. 27 as he reported for duty at Army headquarters. He was accused of recruiting Army personnel for a "destabilization" plot.

Lim plotted to oust GMA

Asked about Lim's denials, Esperon told ANC television that Lim had told Senga of his plan to join the march organized by opposition politicians to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Edsa I People Power Revolution.

"Yes ... That's what they told the chief of staff. They planned to join the march," Esperon said. "We are trying to investigate further ... there could be a violation of his oath of office."

Esperon skirted a question on whether there appeared to be wider military participation in the Feb. 24 incident and whether more officers would undergo questioning.

"We want to be very comprehensive about it to prevent incidents like this," Esperon said. "There was a coup. We're going into that."

Defensor told Palace reporters that ABC-5 TV had a taped interview with Lim, during which he declared he was breaking away from Ms Arroyo but that the video, which was never publicly shown, was missing.

Clear evidence

He said the government had "clear and strong evidence" against the alleged coup plotters and that ABC-5 "will be critical" in the investigation. He said the ABC-5 interview with Lim was the "leak" that led Ms Arroyo to strike against the plotters on Feb. 24.

In the House of Representatives, Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon, a former Moro National Liberation Front commander, also expressed doubt at Lim's denials.

"Any coup plotter would not openly admit his misdeeds. His denials do not clear his name. The fact remains that ... Senga divulged that Lim prodded him to join the coup plot," Macarambon said.

"It's Lim's word against Senga's word. But we believe General Senga will not put his position, name and stars on the line," he said.

Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval said Senga had just hurdled the Commission on Appointments which vouched for his integrity and capability to lead the AFP.

"General Senga would not destroy his name and the trust and confidence of his Commander in Chief," Sandoval said, "by fabricating stories against Lim."

"What would he gain from sowing intrigue among his fellow officers," he added.

Sandoval said that Colonel Querubin had confirmed the plan for them to join the protests against the government during a standoff at the Scout Rangers headquarters in Fort Bonifacio on Feb. 26.

"Granting, for the sake of argument, that they only intended to join the rallies, it's not for these soldiers to march in the streets to protest. Lim is of star rank and therefore must have a deeper appreciation of military processes and responsibilities," Sandoval said.

With a report from Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora

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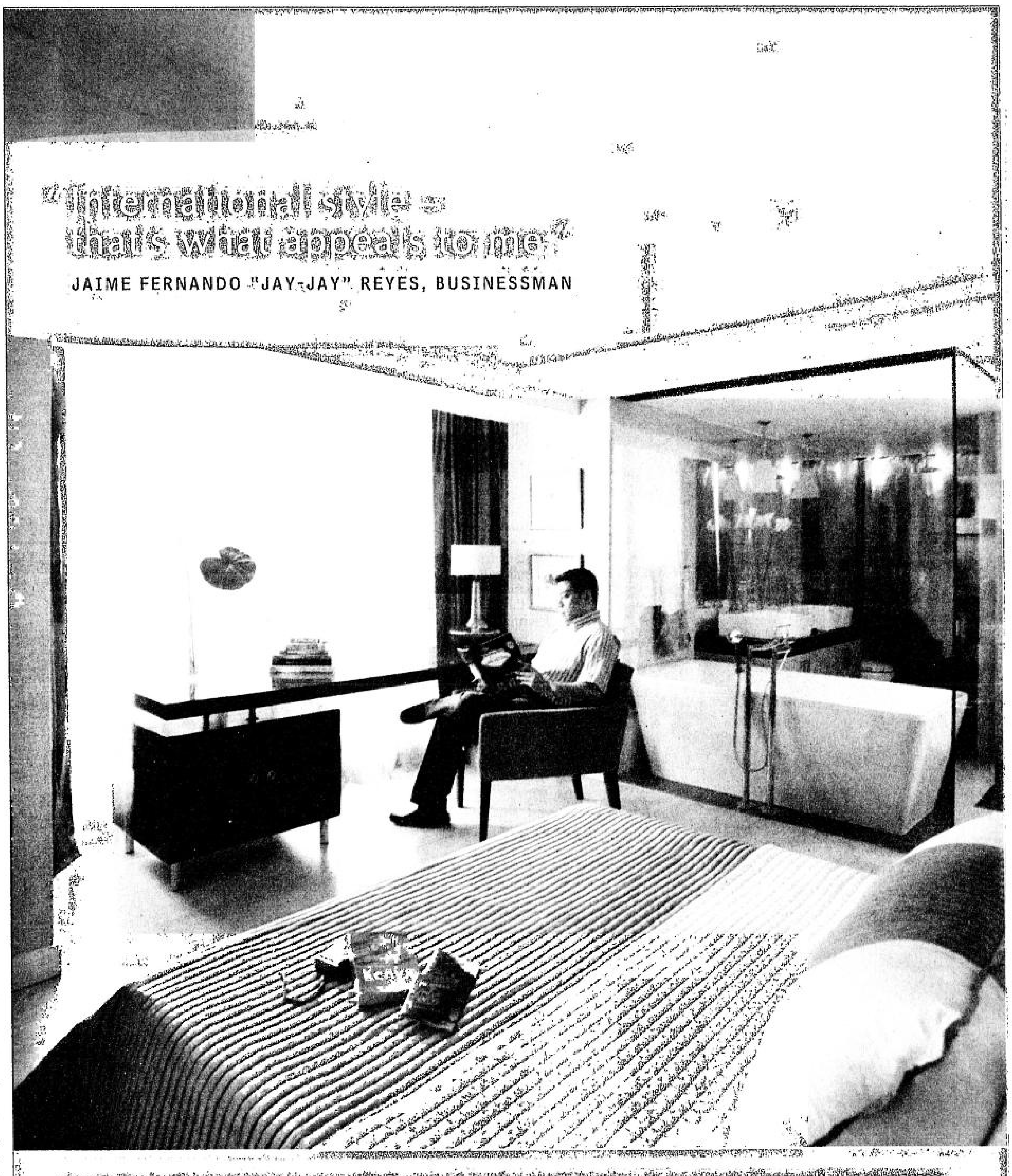
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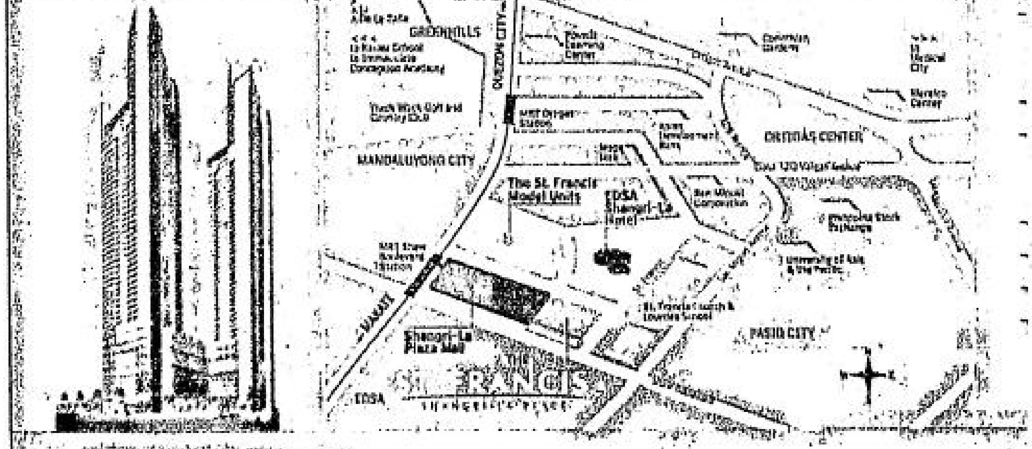

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Iran: US to suffer 'pain' in return for sanctions

VIENNA—IRAN WARNED THE UNITED STATES ON WEDNESDAY it could inflict "harm and pain" to match whatever punishment Washington persuades the UN Security Council to mete out over concerns Tehran is secretly seeking atomic bombs.

"So if the United States wishes to choose that path, let the ball roll," Tehran national security official Javad Vaeedi said

Iran and the United States, arch-foes since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, clashed at a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's governing board called to consider an IAEA report that says Iran is accelerating nuclear research.

After 2-1/2 years of US pressure on the IAEA to refer the matter to the Security Council, the board removed the last remaining roadblocks to that step. The move came after Iran rejected proposals by Western powers for a compromise solution.

IAEA director Mohamed ElBaradei's report was e-mailed to the council later in the day, the agency said, and will form part of the basis for any UN action over Iran's nuclear program.

Diplomats said the council would probably start debating Iran next week and US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said it would be Monday or Tuesday.

The five permanent members of the council met to discuss a statement that Britain, France and the United States are preparing for possible adoption next week.

The statement was to have asked for a report from the IAEA in 30 days on whether Iran had cooperated with UN nuclear and suspended its atomic activities, diplomats said.

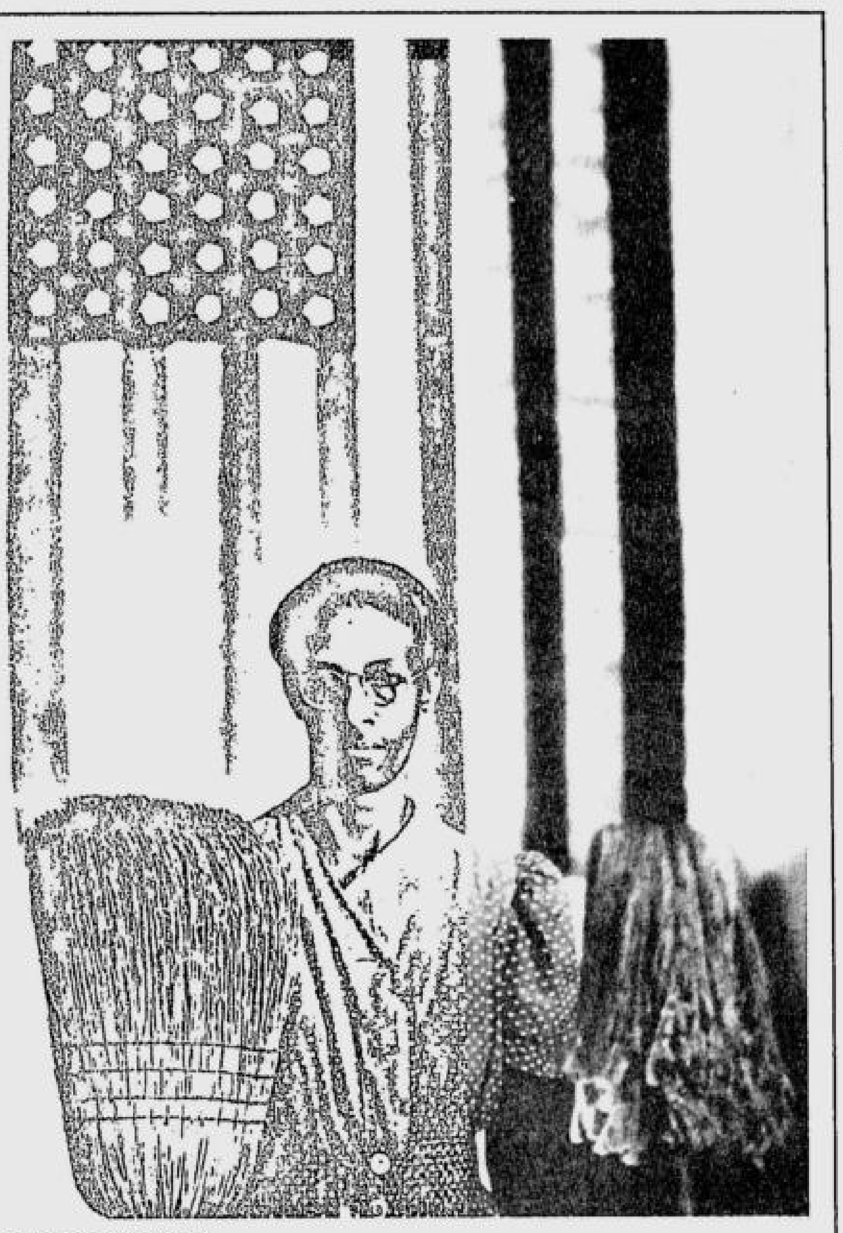
But one envoy said Britain now wanted a 14-day deadline, while no immediate decision had been reached among the five—the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

The IAEA board decided a month ago to send Iran's nuclear dossier to the Security Council, as long as it deferred any steps until after ElBaradei's findings were presented.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said sanctions mooted by Washington to bring Iran to heel would not work, a reminder that Moscow could veto any punitive crackdown on Iran.

Iran, the world's No. 4 oil provider, also said it would review its oil export policy should the council tackle its case, which EU powers said was now inevitable as Tehran had flouted demands to prove it was not secretly seeking atom bombs.

Reuters



PARK'S LEGACY

A 1942 photo "American Gothic, Washington, DC" by photographer Gordon Parks. Parks, the first black American photojournalist for Life magazine and the first leading black filmmaker with "The Learning Tree" and "Shaft," died March 8, 2006 at his home. He was 93. AP

US, Canada, Australia at 'high risk' of bird flu

PARIS—THE UNITED STATES, Canada and Australia are at very high risk of bird flu infection, an international veterinary organization warned Wednesday as the World Health Organization called for the creation of an African multibillion-dollar fund to offset economic losses from the disease.

The Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) said the current H5N1 bird flu pandemic could spread to the US, Canada and Australia.

"The probability of this strain appearing in Australia is very high. The possibility is also very high for the United States and Canada," OIE Director General Bernard Vallat told a French parliamentary commission.

Those three countries have so far escaped being caught up in the spread of the H5N1 strain of avian flu, which originated in Asia in 2003 and which has since spread to the Middle East, Africa, Russia, Turkey and Europe.

Vallat said detailed analyses of the widening area hit by the disease showed a "pessimistic" outlook for Australia, Canada and the United States. *AFP*

Thaksin deal to proceed despite turmoil

BANGKOK—SINGAPORE'S STATE-linked investment firm Temasek on Thursday looked set to acquire full control of Premier Thaksin Shinawatra's telecoms giant Shin Corp. despite a political furor over the deal.

Outside the Singaporean Embassy in Bangkok, thousands of Thais threatened a wide-ranging boycott of goods from the city-state and demanded Temasek scrap the takeover of Shin Corp., founded by Thaksin before he entered politics.

He transfered control in 2001, when he took office, to his family who made $1.9 billion tax-free after selling a nearly 50-percent stake to Temasek, sparking public outrage that has snowballed into mass weekly protests demanding the premier's resignation.

"I hope that there is no incident (at the embassy). We can explain everything" to Singapore, Thaksin told reporters in Chanthaburi, east of Bangkok.

Temasek's purchase sparked concerns about foreign ownership of a company that has key interests in telecoms, satellites, media and aviation.

"We will wait for an answer from the embassy until 4 p.m. If we don't get the answer or the answer is unsatisfactory, we will start boycotting Singaporean goods and services immediately," said Rosana Tositrakul, a member of the anti-Thaksin People's Alliance for Democracy.

The embassy said it would not get involved.

"The Shin Corp.-Temasek deal is a private sector deal, done purely on a commercial basis. The Singapore government does not interfere in the business and operations of Temasek Holdings," it said in a statement Thursday.

"The Singapore government is not involved. Singapore companies doing businesses in Thailand are required to observe the laws of Thailand," it said.

Temasek is making a tender offer to buy all the remaining Shin Corp. shares, as Thai regulators require when a significant stake in a company is sold.

"We are proceeding with the tender offer as required by Thai law. The tender offer will end at 4:30 p.m. today," a Temasek official said.

Temasek has offered to buy Shin Corp. shares at 49.25 baht ($1.26) per share, up 12 percent from Wednesday's market close of 44.00 baht. The offer will expire at 4:30 p.m., the closing of the Thai market, on Thursday.

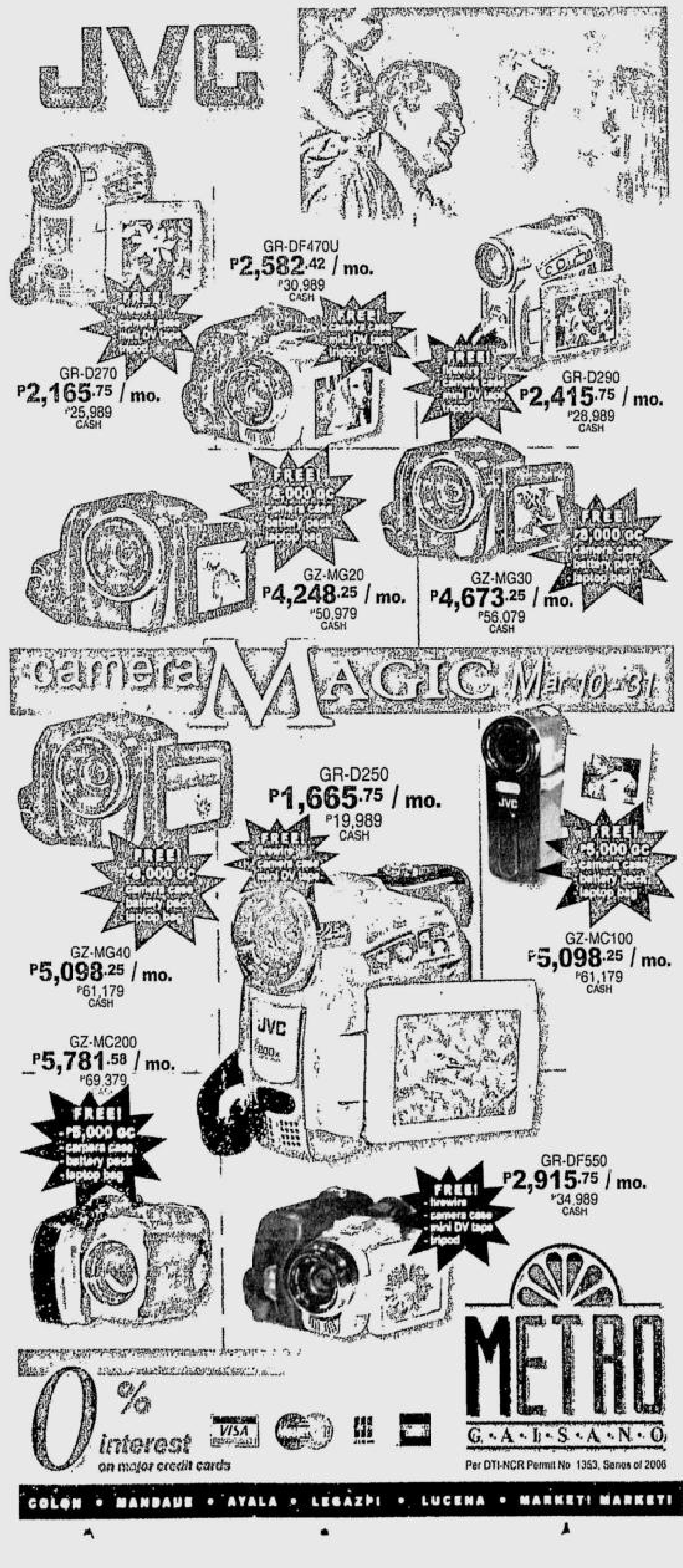
In addition to the nearly 50-percent stake from Thaksin's family, retail investors holding about 16 percent stake in Shin Corp. had "agreed to accept Temasek's tender offer as of early March," the Temasek official said.

Temasek is expected to announce details of the tender offer on Tuesday, the official said, shrugging off rumors in Bangkok that Temasek might cancel the deal due to escalating political tensions against Thaksin.

Anti-Thaksin groups on Wednesday threatened to boycott nearly 100 companies and products linked to the premier, racheting up the pressure on him to resign.

The boycott list includes several top international brands, such as Toyota, Heineken, Nescafe and Seven-Eleven.

Among Shin Corp.'s companies are Thailand's biggest mobile phone operator Advanced Info Service (AIS), which controls over 50 percent of the mobile phone market with 16.3 million subscribers. *AFP*



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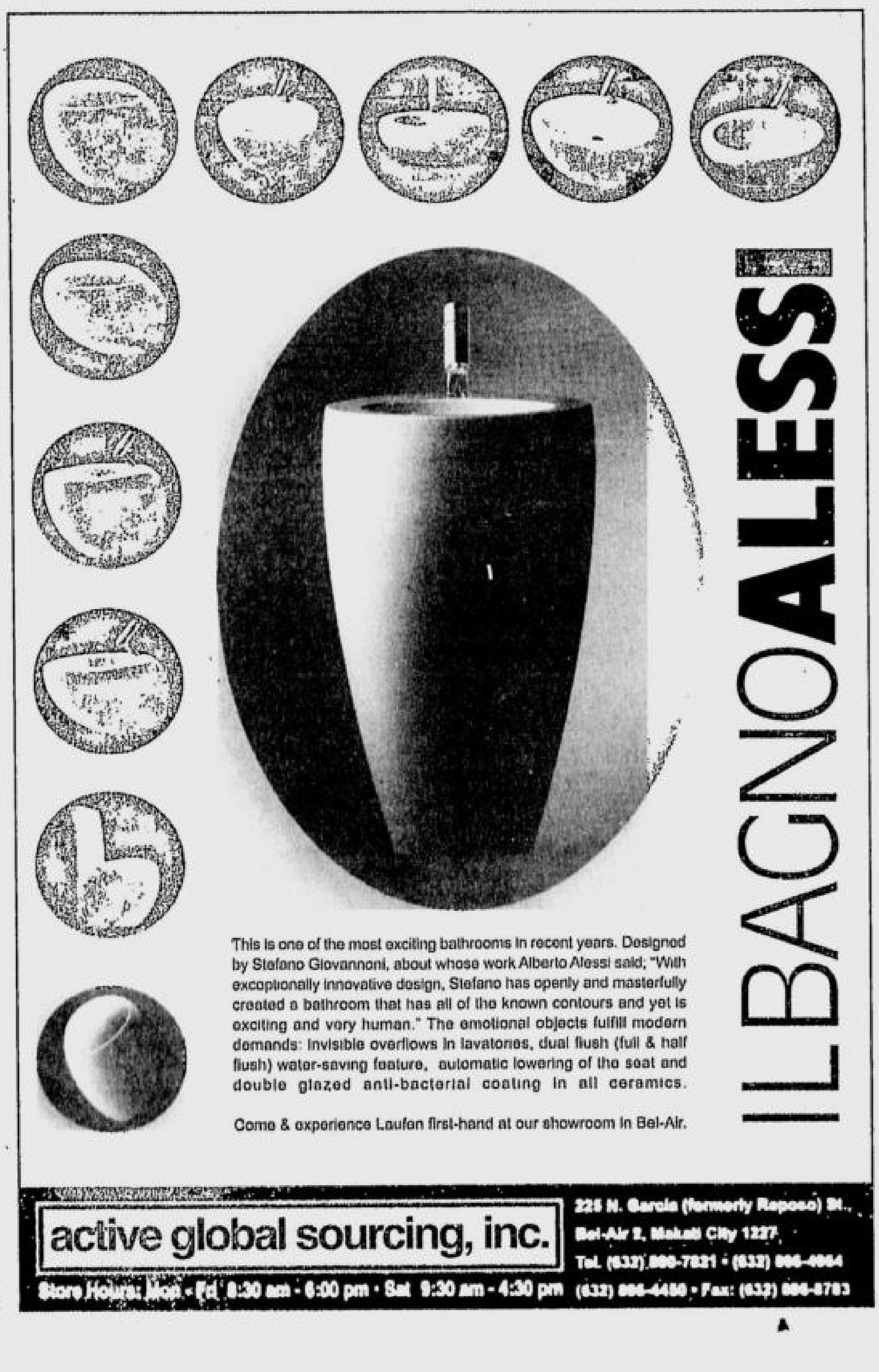

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Israel-built wall causing major changes, says UN

GENEVA—EAST JERUSALEM IS UNDERGOING major changes because of a new wall through Palestinian neighborhoods aimed at reducing the number of Palestinians in the city, a UN expert said in Geneva on Wednesday.

In a report to the UN Human Rights Commission, John Dugard, special rapporteur on human rights in the Occupied Territories, said the Israeli-built wall was causing major humanitarian problems.

"The character of East Jerusalem is undergoing a major change as a result of the construction of the wall through Palestinian neighborhoods," he said.

"The clear purpose of the wall in the Jerusalem area is to reduce the number of Palestinians in the city by transferring them to the West Bank.

"This causes major humanitarian problems: Families are separated and access to hospitals, schools and the workplace are denied."

The independent expert recalled that the wall between Israel and Palestinian territories and described by Israel as a security measure, had gone ahead despite a 2004 ruling by the International Court of Justice.

The basis for a future settlement between Israel and the Palestinians remains the so-called "road map" of 2003 "which is hopelessly out of date and which envisaged an end to the conflict by the end of 2005," said Dugard.

The European Union, the United States, United Nations and Russia make up a so-called quartet sponsoring the roadmap, which provides for the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel.

The blueprint has made next to no progress since it was endorsed by the Israelis and Palestinians in 2003 amid continuing bloodshed.

"It is suggested that the roadmap be revised to take account of present realities and the 2004 advisory opinion of International Court of Justice," Dugard continued in his report.

"It is essential that the Quartet be guided more by human rights considerations and the Court's advisory opinion in its handling of negotiations," it said.

The report to the UN was immediately condemned by the Israeli UN envoy to the UN rights panel, who said the document was pursuing "manifest political ends." *AFP*

Gunmen seize 50 Iraqi workers

BAGHDAD—GUNMEN IN POLICE COMMANDO uniforms seized some 50 employees from a private security firm Wednesday in Baghdad, amid renewed sectarian tension and a destabilizing political stalemate in Iraq.

Security officials said the gunmen stormed the Al-Rawafed security company headquarters in the east of the capital and made off with all the employees at gunpoint.

The officials could not immediately say if the gunmen were from the interior ministry or if the employees had been kidnapped by insurgents disguised as police commandos.

The incident came less than 24 hours after police found the bodies of 18 men crammed into a minibus in a mainly Sunni Arab district of west Baghdad. They had been shot or strangled, medics at Yarmuk hospital said.

They wore civilian clothes that were soaked in blood and the faces of several of them had turned blue, an AFP correspondent reported from the hospital morgue.

Two more bodies were discovered overnight Tuesday elsewhere in the city.

Interior ministry officials, fearing that talk of sectarian violence might trigger a fresh outbreak in bloodshed between majority Shiites and minority Sunnis, refused to say if the killings were sectarian in nature.

In other violence on Wednesday, at least 11 Iraqis were killed and scores of others wounded in a series of rebel attacks. The dead included four Iraqi policemen and two soldiers.

The US military announced that one of its soldiers had been killed and four wounded in a roadside bomb near Tall Afar in northern Iraq on Tuesday.

This brought to at least 2,302 the number of US military personnel killed in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion of the country, according to Pentagon figures which were last updated on Tuesday.

The latest round of violence came as the US ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, acknowledged that the US-led invasion had opened a "Pandora's box" of ethnic and sectarian tension in the region.

The bombing of a Shiite shrine in the northern town of Samarra on Feb. 22 triggered the worst sectarian violence since the invasion and has left hundreds dead, mainly Sunnis. *AFP*

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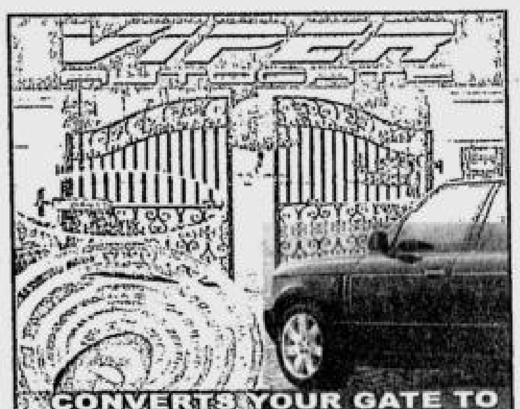

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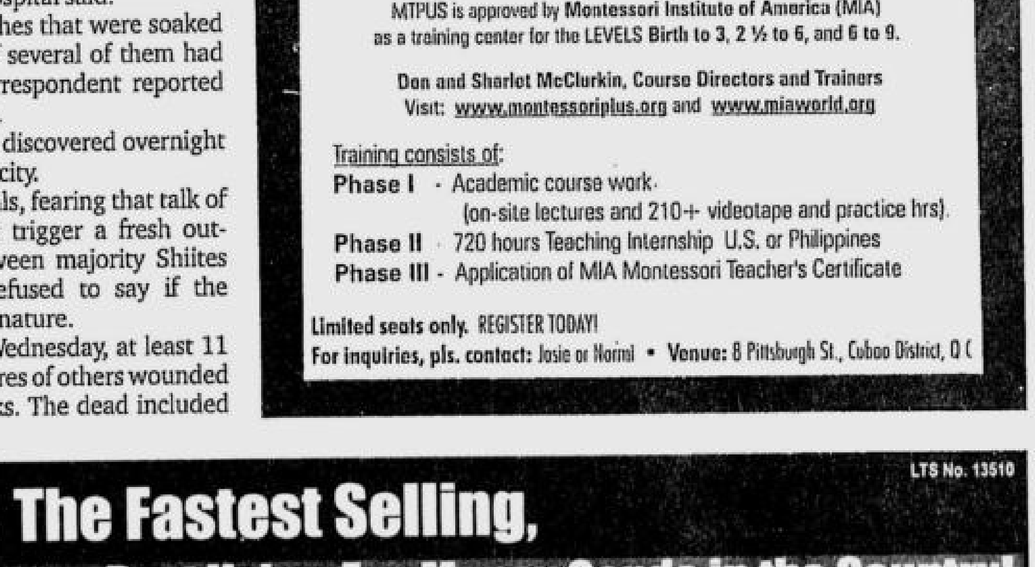

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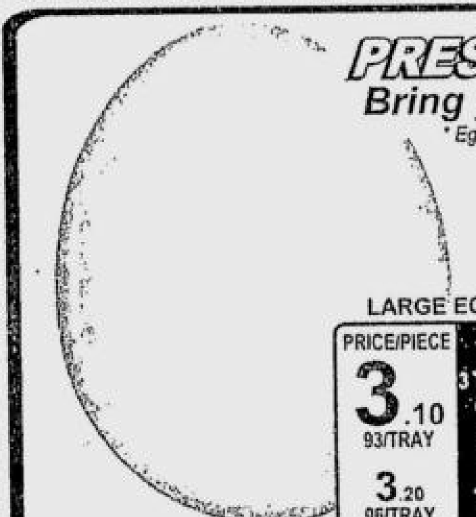

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Skin-on/Boneless
PRICE/KG
119 6 KGS & UP
122 2 KGS & UP
125 PER KG

INSPECTED NMIC
Pork Chop
Skin-on/Bone-in
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29 3 KGS & UP
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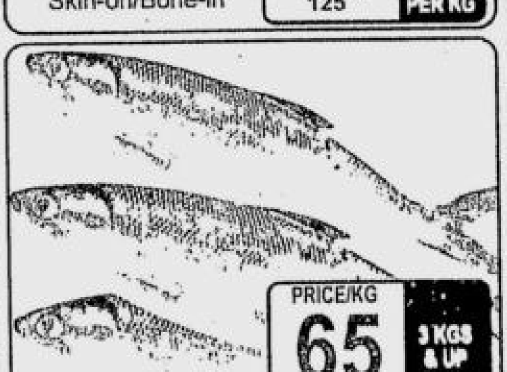

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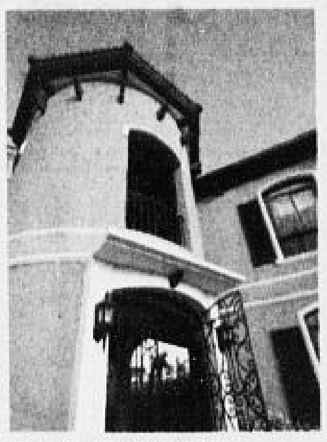
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Better in Bangkok

EDITORIAL

IN ONE OF THAILAND'S LEADING ENGLISH dailies, The Nation, an op-ed piece appeared yesterday, titled "In defense of our scapegoat Constitution." In it, the author, Tulsathit Taptim, says that the present charter of Thailand was bought with the blood and tears of pro-democracy demonstrators who mounted People Power. The writer says, "This Constitution already provided everything we could possibly need. It enshrines a strong recognition of citizens' rights, with mechanisms prescribed to support enforcement. It provided for a new system to monitor, investigate and punish corrupt officials and politicians. Checks and balances under this Charter were supposed to be our best ever. Our first elected Senate was meant to be a chamber of independent and forward-thinking minds."

But what happened? the writer asks. "When [Prime Minister] Thaksin and his wife were found to have stashed Bt10 billion worth of shares in his servants' accounts, this Constitution was screaming, 'STOP HIM!' Its writers, headed by respected figures that included Anand [Panyarachun, one of the fathers of Thai People Power now in opposition to Thaksin], had anticipated something like this, so they put in place tough restrictions on politicians' involvement in business and stipulated punishments for anyone lying about what they owned. The mechanisms were there to put Thaksin away, but in the end, his landslide election victory interfered with the nation's conscience, and the rest is history."

The writer goes on to conclude, "If this Constitution cannot contain Thaksin or clean up Thai politics, making it transparent and accountable, then no Charter can. We could not have imagined a better system of checks and balances ...What a shameful travesty of justice it is, to blame such an excellent charter, albeit one that has found itself undermined by the corrupt nature of politicians and society's lack of courage, for the very existence of corruption. Our problem is that we always expect our Constitution to give, while we hardly contribute to it."

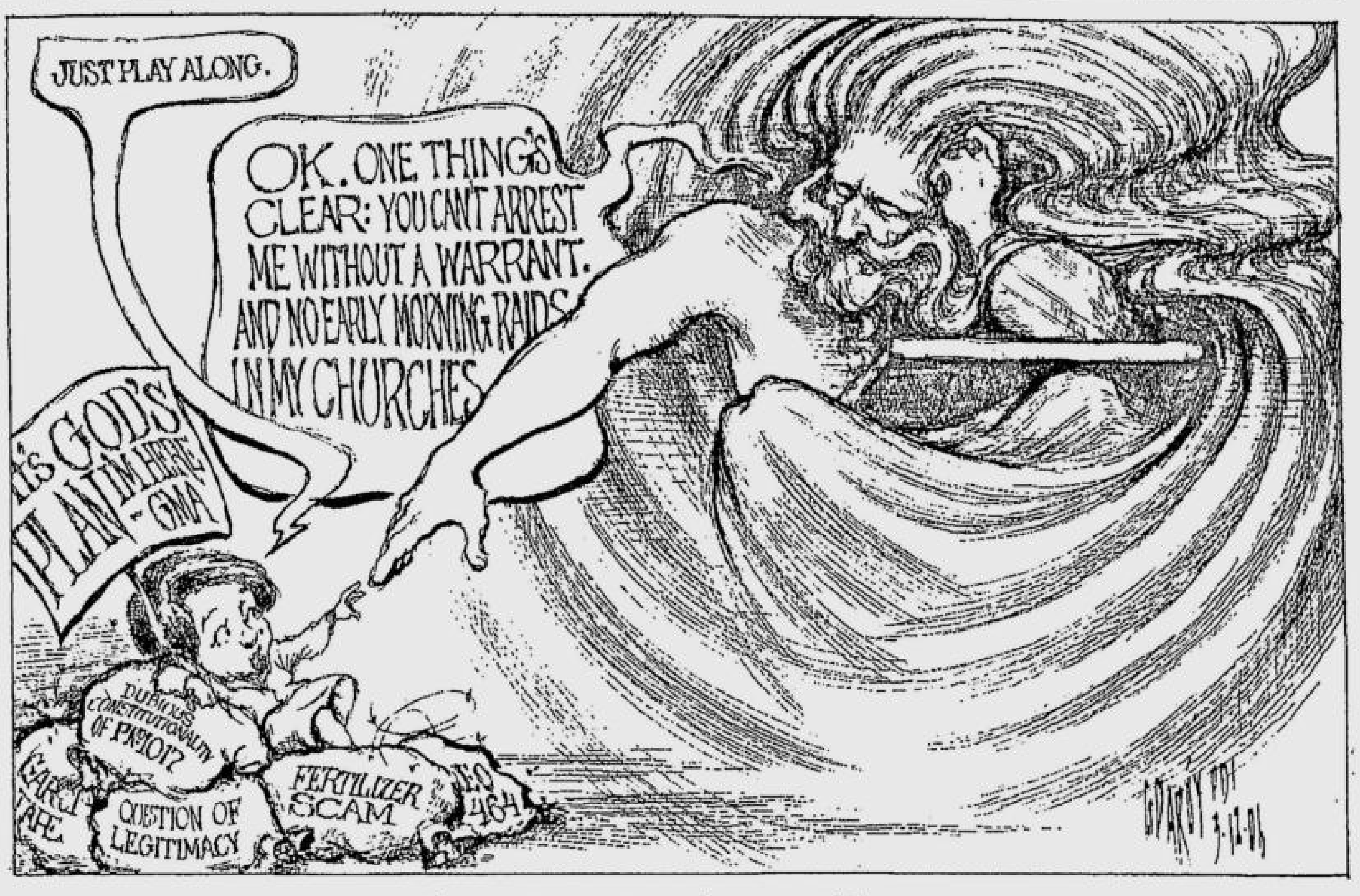
To think that in Thailand, protesters are wearing yellow and resorting to People Power because a prime minister is accused of engineering constitutional amendments for his own private benefit; and that despite Thaksin's willingness to hold snap elections, a boycott of elections is being taken seriously.

It is the height of irony that in Thailand, which our local plundering politicians keep pointing to in envy—look at their economy, they say, look at their lovely parliamentary system—the Thais have taken it upon themselves to keep People Power alive. And for all his other actions, their prime minister is not only eager to throw himself at the mercy of the electorate—he has not cracked down on his protesting countrymen. And to think, Thaksin is not, by any means, a timid peacenik.

An essay currently being circulated by Julio Rey Hidalgo, a businessman, quotes the poet's line, "As to forms of government, let fools contend; what is best administered is best." Whether in Thailand or Manila, putting up constitutions as straw men to deflect attention from the shortcomings of leaders is neither a fair nor rational tactic. All it can result in is an insistence on "moving on," but a country confronted with a leadership that's lost the public's trust will not move on until the legitimacy of the ruler is resolved.

When we proposed a referendum as a means of resolving the questions surrounding President Macapagal-Arroyo's legitimacy, there was opposition—no funds for such a referendum were available; and even if the funds were there, they would be better spent on a referendum on Charter change. And yet, as Sen. Sergio Osmeña III has pointed out, if the President could push for a supplemental budget for a national budget that hasn't even been passed, surely a budgetary obstacle to holding a referendum could not possibly exist.

If investors aren't in a panic in Thailand, it's not only because they expect Thaksin to survive the political crisis; it's because confronted with an angry population, the Thai prime minister is democratic enough to let his people vent their anger in the streets and is unafraid to throw the question of legitimacy to his people.


JUST PLAY ALONG.
OK. ONE THING'S CLEAR: YOU CAN'T ARREST ME WITHOUT A WARRANT. AND NO EARLY MORNING RAIDS IN MY CHURCHES
IT'S GOD'S PLAN I'M HERE - GMA
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Ate Glue is 'God's will' on us?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE DESTABILIZERS AND CRITICS OF PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo better stop their carping and belly-aching now. All their shouting and marching will amount to nothing because what they are doing "is against the will of God." Didn't they hear GMA herself say that "it is the will of God" that she be the President of the Philippines? And that she is the "best" person to lead the country? Who are these critics to go against the will of God?

So she did call Virgilio Garcillano to preserve her one-million vote lead over Fernando Poe Jr. What's wrong with that, if God made her do that? It only proves her abiding faith in God.

Remember the story of Abraham? God told him to sacrifice his son Isaac, and Abraham, despite his misery over killing his son as a sacrifice to God, chose to keep faith with God, and God stopped him from pushing through with the killing. He was only testing the faith of Abraham, God said. And now that He was sure of Abraham's loyalty, God blessed his family and descendants with the power to populate the world.

Who knows, maybe God was only testing the faith of Ate Glue and Garci. God moves in mysterious ways. We should be thankful that both of them obeyed God or He could have punished us. We could have been another Sodom and Gomorrah. Maybe the landslides in Southern Leyte and elsewhere were a warning. God could have unleashed a plague on us, like He did on the Egyptians when the Pharaoh refused to free Moses and his people. Or He could have unleashed another Great Flood and only Ate Glue and Garci and snakes, crocodiles and other reptiles would have been saved aboard the presidential yacht. We were lucky that both of them obeyed "the will of God" during the 2004 elections and so we were all saved.

God could have blessed our country because of what Ate Glue and Garci have done. Isn't our economy already improving and the value of the peso appreciating in relation to the dollar? We are on the way to greatness. That we have Ate Glue as our President despite the efforts of destabilizers is proof of that. We have the "best" leader within God's gift to give, and she is GMA. We should all sing "Hallelujah," thank God and resign ourselves to whatever His anointed throws at us.

GMA says we are in a state of national emergency and that communists, soldiers and opposition groups are trying to unseat her. She asks the media, the people, the police and military come to her rescue and put their faith in her and believe whatever she says and obey.

Come to think of it, we are having all these problems because we don't want to obey her. How dare we disobey God's apostle? If we would obey GMA all the time, we wouldn't have any trouble. If she says she won "fair and square" in the 2004 elections, let's believe her. She speaks with the voice of God. Even if evidence points to the contrary, let's believe her. Evidence can be wrong; GMA can never be wrong. She has been placed where she is by God, even if 80 percent of Filipinos don't want her there. But it's the remaining 20 percent who will be saved on Judgment Day. The rest will be lost.

* * *

As for the women of the Philippines marching in the streets during International Women's Day to demand the ouster of GMA, ironically one of their own, they shouldn't be out in the streets. They should be home taking care of their families. That is why the police dispersed them—so they would go home to their families.

As we all know, policemen love women so much that some of them have two or more wives. They know how lonely a home is without the wife and mother there. They were only trying to preserve the Filipino home when they dispersed the women marchers. We should be thankful we have policemen who love their women and homes so much.

If they hauled some of the women off to Camp Karingal, bless them all. It was to protect these women from harm when the marchers were dispersed. Who knows, they could have accidentally bumped their heads against the clubs and shields of the policemen during the dispersal? Of course, no policeman would ever willfully club a woman. The only way women can be hurt is for them to bump their heads and bodies against the clubs and shields and the police don't want that to happen. So they were taken to Camp Karingal for their protection. And while there was violence during the dispersal, weren't these chosen women spared?

Honestly, I don't understand why these women are marching against Ate Glue. They should be proud that we have a woman President. And not just any woman, but an honest one who doesn't lie, cheat or steal—in fact, "the best" there is, according to her.

Well, she may have told little white lies and cheated a little during the 2004 elections, but as I have said earlier, those were God's will. Who are we to question the will of God?

As Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told the press, "Nobody can go against God's will, I tell you. Not even, oh my gosh, the religious, the men of the cloth. In the end, it is God's will that will prevail...."

"Everything that we are in this universe is God's will," Ermita continued. "Where you are situated, were we are, that is God's will. All that we know is that if we believe in God, we know that God has deemed us to be something, to be someone."

Malacañang's theme song is now "Que Sera, Sera." What ever will be, will be.

P.S. I know that the government is monitoring media. I hope this column will get me off the hook.

Love in the time of 1017

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

I MARKED THIS PAST TUESDAY AS A SPECIAL day in my calendar. On that day, the Supreme Court scheduled the oral arguments on the petition filed by Randolf David and others, challenging President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency, and I was going to argue as counsel for the UP professor. But even more special, it was my wife Beth's birthday.

So when Beth asked me the night before what seemed like a routine question, "So what is your schedule tomorrow?" I should've known it was a trick question—the kind that I frankly did not expect until the next day's hearing, and so I let down my guard!

I told her, clinically and with no-nonsense, well, the Court will start the session at 1 p.m., so I have to meet with the other lawyers at 9 a.m. at UP, and then meet up with Professor David later in Manila, and then go to the Court's session hall around noontime. I then nonchalantly said that the oral arguments were expected to go on until late evening (and indeed it went on until 10 p.m.!).

And then came the query in her melodic Ilongga voice, "So when can we have dinner?" I knew I was trapped. I was the hunted, and the hunter was going for the kill. I immediately felt a "chilling effect," and while I entertained thoughts of declaring a state of emergency, I realized I might be charged with usurping her commander-in-chief powers.

All is well, I assure you, and Beth gamely joined me the whole day for the Supreme Court hearing, patiently sitting out her celebrationless birthday. We basically had our "date" in the Court's session hall. The only grilling I got that day was the more than two-hour interpellation I endured under the venerable justices, before whom I stood in awe like a law student being made to recite his assigned case.

That romantic leftist, the Argentinean doctor Ernesto Che Guevara, said: "At the risk of seeming ridiculous, let me say that the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love."

Now that I have used the "R" word, just you wait for Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to charge me with "Exciting to Sedition." That's fine, Your Honor, but let's just make sure my arraignment is not scheduled on my wedding anniversary!

* * *

The government is poised to prosecute some negligent TV network officials and public officers for the spontaneous stampede by the crowd at the PhilSports Arena. How about injuries during involuntary stampedes willfully caused by the Philippine National Police?

There is something unreal about the mood of the town. The papers show images of a smiling and relaxed President, side by side with photos of a phalanx of anti-riot police wielding truncheons and geared for battle. I read such glowing economic reports, see a robust stock exchange and a strong peso, but I grieve at the televised image of that mother crying over her OFW daughter's mysterious death.

Shouldn't we take these contrasts as part of the propaganda that "malicious segments of the media" allegedly spread against the President? Not quite. President Arroyo has appropriated for herself the image of normalcy, and has tarred and feathered her enemies with the image of disruption.

Her swift revenge—Atienza's coup at a government-organized seminar-turned-party convention of the Liberal Party, the purported guidelines for print and broadcast media, the quick revival of old criminal charges against Gregorio Honasan and Crispin Beltran, and the arrest warrants issued for his fellow members at Bayan Muna —have surely antagonized the opposition, whom she has ceased to court anyway.

But to the waffling Filipino middle class, perhaps it conveys an image of strength and determination, the Machiavellian virtu, the will to power, that Nicolo prescribed to his patron Lorenzo de Medici. President Arroyo's clever response to the crisis has upped the ante in Philippine politics. She has dared the fates and done the unthinkable, and seems to have gotten away with it.

When Malacañang announces that life is now back to normal, I ask myself: But isn't our "normal" something to be escaped, rather than restored? The day after the state of emergency was declared, I was a guest at Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program together with PNP Director Vidal Querol. During a break in the program to receive traffic reports, the field reporter radioed back: "The rallyists have dispersed and traffic is back to normal." VP Noli animatedly shot back: "*Di kung normal, ibig sabihin, ma-*traffic *na nga*."

But there was another exchange that lingers in my mind. When the Vice President first asked the reporter, "*O, nasaan ka na ngayon?*" the reporter half-in-jest retorted: "*Ah, pwede ko ho bang sabihin yon* on-the-air? *Baka bawal?*" It was a welcome moment of levity, but a grim reminder of the perils of the chilling effect.

By pushing her enemies into the streets and then provoking them into public melees with the police, President Arroyo may actually be courting the business and middle classes, who long for business-as-usual and distance themselves from the political, the ideological and the passionate. But then she leaves no other option but a military coup, at which point she will drape herself in the very Constitution she has debased.

Remember Judge Learned Hand's words in "The Spirit of Liberty": "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it."

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

A crippled democracy after 1017

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

AFTER THE REVOCATION OF PROCLAMATION 1017, President Macapagal-Arroyo left in place the mechanisms of control of the press not seen since the overthrow of the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos 20 years ago.

Soldiers and police on the premises of an insignificant newspaper and the two largest TV networks may have been pulled out following the lifting of the proclamation, but the Philippine press continues to be under a state of national emergency and faces imminent threat of censorship, reducing to a farce the claimed existence of a democratic state in the Philippines.

The farce is more sharply accented by the fact that constitutional guarantees of freedom of the press exist, the government has not formally installed a dictatorship, as Marcos did 20 years ago, and insists it is a democratic government. This is the glaring contradiction in the Arroyo administration today, after it cancelled its half-hearted attempt to clamp political control.

The media, a non-state institution, emerged from the week-long state of emergency suffering the most impairment among all the countervailing institutions to authoritarian rule, including the Supreme Court and Congress.

After PP 1017, the country did not return to the status quo-ante. Although short-lived, PP 1017 has left the Philippines a crippled democracy with one of its key underpinning institutions—the press—in need of repairs.

Two operational mechanisms of press censorship have remained in place. First, the National Telecommunications Commission continues to monitor radio and television stations for breach of "guidelines" banning broadcasts of "rebellious, terrorist propaganda" and statements that "propose or incite treason, rebellion or sedition." Organizations of journalists have asked the Court of Appeals to stop security officials from "stopping, prohibiting or censoring the publication or airing of speech" deemed inflammatory.

The other mechanism of press control comes in the form of intervention from no less than the President who warned, in a post-1017 interview, that she would impose emergency measures again if necessary. "I will not hesitate to do what is needed in order to maintain peace and order in our country," she threatened.

The government has invoked laws involving national security to prosecute newspapers, journalists and editors accused of publishing inflammatory stories to incite public disorder. A charge of inciting to sedition has been laid against the editor and two columnists of The Daily Tribune, which was raided by the police on the same day a state of national emergency was proclaimed. This action goes beyond normal legal restraints on the press, such as criminal libel complaints by offended parties.

On Feb. 24, the President issued General Order No 5. directing the Armed Forces "in the face of national emergency, to maintain peace, order and safety and to prevent and suppress lawless violence." It declared that elements in the political opposition, in conspiracy with the communists and the extreme Right, represented by military adventurists, had engaged in a concerted and systematic conspiracy to bring down the elected government. The President then dragged the press into the coup attempt, saying that "the claims of these elements have been recklessly magnified by certain segments of the national media."

In an attempt at news management and to drive a wedge in the media, the President, in an interview on March 7 with GMA-7 network, gave a lecture on "responsible journalism." She said she was not seeking "praise releases" from the media but only wanted them to be "fair, responsible and not bordering on sedition" when reporting news (for "responsible" read: non-critical news). With that interview, she intruded into the realm of independent judgment of editors and journalists on what to publish or not publish.

The government may have nipped the coup attempt in the bud, but the brunt of its punitive action fell on the media rather than on the military components of the plot to grab power. Two of the officers implicated by military intelligence and the government in the failed coup did not incur as much presidential wrath than the media. These officers—Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, commander of the elite Army Scout Rangers regiment, and Col. Ariel Querubin, a Marine brigade commander—had planned, according to military intelligence, to lead their troops in joining a political rally on Feb. 24, at which they were to announce their withdrawal of support from the Arroyo administration to spark wider military defections and a general public insurrection demanding Ms Arroyo's resignation. These officers were relieved of their commands but are now in the custody of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga, receiving lenient disciplinary action.

But the mystery is that while these facts indicate that the most dangerous enemy of the President comes from disgruntled members of the military, which holds the monopoly of armed power given by the state, she vented her fury on the media, a weaponless civil institution, without the means to do violence.

The President's crackdown on media is a sharp contrast to her relatively lower concern over the threat of a military coup. The crackdown and continuing attempt to impose control on the press lend credence to the view that the principal objective of PP 1017 was to muzzle the press, using the aborted coup plot as an excuse. The identification of the press as public enemy No. 1 is a fatal political mistake, which will have disastrous consequences for the regime.

Women's March

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT, TO ADDRESS COMmunity leaders convened by Likhaan for a Women's Day symposium on the impact of Presidential Proclamation 1017 on various sectors, made me miss the start of the Women's March last Wednesday on Ayala Avenue.

The march and rally itself was less than a week in the planning, with women leaders from all across the political/ideological/social spectrum getting together and deciding on a united action to demonstrate women's outrage at the Arroyo administration's increasing heavy-handedness.

In previous years, March 8, International Women's Day, was celebrated separately by women's groups, depending on their orientation and inclinations. But drawn together by a common cause—to defend and protect our human rights, including women's rights—women leaders got together to prepare for a massive protest to show our President, who happens to be a woman, that other women were not about to remain silent in the face of growing repression amid the people's deepening poverty.

On the way to Ayala that afternoon, I caught on the radio a report that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had "revealed" that the Women's March had been planned to "accomplish" what the Feb. 25 Ayala rally was meant to do: to topple the Arroyo administration. Indeed, he had been called to an "emergency" meeting the night before, Gonzalez reportedly said, which was the reason he couldn't put in an appearance at the Supreme Court to defend the legality of the issuance of PP 1017.

Everybody had a good laugh at this report after I finally made it to Ayala. True to the convenors' intent, the program at the end of the march was lighthearted and fun, to a certain extent. While there were a few speeches and chants, there were also songs, dances (onstage and on the street) and poetry readings. If we were planning to overthrow Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, this was certainly a fun way to do so!

* * *

IF the Supreme Court justices still needed proof of the lingering effects of PP 1017, and the dubious legality of the state's response to the alleged "emergency," they need only to check out news reports about the arrest of Akbayan Rep. Rissa Hontiveros-Baraquel.

Literally hauled off to prison after police broke up Akbayan's observance of International Women's Day at the Quezon City Mabuhay Rotunda, Baraquel later denounced her manhandling and the violation of her rights in a privilege speech at the House of Representatives. Another leader of the rally, the Alliance of Progressive Labor's secretary general Joshua Mata, was likewise arrested for violation of the "illegal assembly law."

Baraquel joins five other members of the House who are currently "housemates," having been holed up for more than a week in the Batasan, while police and justice officials scramble to justify their arrest on outstanding warrants on charges of rebellion. With so-called "progressive" legislators in their sights, we can only speculate that it's only a matter of time before the authorities begin moving in and arresting members of the political opposition and anyone who dares criticize the President.

* * *

BUT if PP 1017 focused our attention on the many violations of human rights committed by authorities, participants at the community leaders' forum, many of them from urban poor communities in Caloocan, Malabon, Bulacan and Cavite, spoke of the almost "routine" violations of their rights.

Many times, said a woman leader from Cavite, police have raided their community purportedly to crack down on "criminal elements." Some of her neighbors, said the leader, are still in prison after two years, arrested without warrants and with no charges being filed against them.

Lawyer Marlon Manuel of the Alternative Legal Group, who spoke on the legal implications of PP 1017, conducted an impromptu "legal clinic," sharing information, specifically conditions that police have to meet before they can legally conduct searches or arrest anyone.

Lacking access to legal advice or services, and even the means to post bail, poor folk have had to compromise their rights as citizens in the struggle merely to survive and be left alone by the state.

Also this week, a man climbed up an overpass and threatened to kill himself out of frustration after MMDA operatives had confiscated his pop corn cart three times. The man told his story after he was calmed down and agreed to go down from his perch, but hearing it, I could only sympathize with a man whose only wish in life was to make a living and earn some money without being unduly harassed by the government. That, to the poor, may be the full extent of what human rights mean.

* * *

HERE are excerpts from "reflections" on International Women's Day and GMA written by Carolina Ruiz-Austria, a lecturer at the UP College of Law.

What does it mean for Filipino women to have a woman leader like President Arroyo at the helm of government at this time?

On a deeper level, writes Austria, "GMA's propensity to back only 'penal' (punitive and surveillance mode) measures for 'women's protection,' isn't an accident." Just as she has interpreted the protection of "national interests" by disregarding constitutional rights, GMA's response to women's rights "reflects her (as well as many others') emerging 'notion' of the 'strong' state (we must violate your right in order to protect them) as the way forward.

"Advocating for welfare and social services in the budget and as part of state mandate in the face of dwindling state services can no longer be dismissed as 'women's sector advocacies.' More than ever it is becoming clear that such engagements are at the core of the contest in defining what our state should be and finally, what true people's empowerment entails."

Books of manners

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

OLD PEOPLE OFTEN BEWAIL THE MORALS of young ones as if they were not young once. I often hear folks of pre-war vintage waxing nostalgic about an age (*pistaym* or peace time) when schools taught not only reading, writing and arithmetic but also "good manners and right conduct." I have yet to see the textbook or teacher's guide to this subject, but I'm sure it will be quite refreshing for me and, of course, my favorite, bratty, 2-year-old nephew who is slowly testing the patience of the adults to see how far he can go without reprimand or being asked to sit in the "quiet chair."

While some people have heard of the 19th-century Tagalog book of manners by Modesto de Castro, written in epistolary form as "Pagsusulatan ni Urbana at ni Felisa," not many are familiar with a similar Visayan work, "Lagda," by the Jesuit Pedro de Estrada, first printed in 1734. Ten years ago I came across a typescript copy in the San Beda College library and doubted its provenance, but the whole text is reproduced in Volume 5 of Gregorio Zaide's "Documentary Sources of Philippine History." Zaide also worked on a typescript English translation. Although I cannot read Visayan, I will dig up an original copy someday just to convince myself this is not another elaborate hoax like the Code of Kalantiaw.

Zaide says the original book is a guide to living a Christian life and comes complete with prayers and other devotional material. But what should interest historians are the words of advice given in the 18th century that don't quite match our code of conduct in the 21st century. The opening chapter alone reflects how different our world is from theirs:

"When you wake up in the morning, do not roll on yourself like an earthworm, do not wiggle like a snake that is crawling on the ground, but get up right away, make the Sign of the Cross and thank God that He has saved you from the danger that night.

"Fold your blanket, roll your pillow in your mat, and put them aside or in a corner so that they will not bother or disturb.

"Change your dress so that you will not appear as if you have just come out of a pigsty, and at the same time pray the Act of Faith. Your dress, even if it is old or torn, should be smooth and clean because it is not proper that you should appear before other people scrubbing yourself as if you had lice. You should wash your face so that you will not look dirty or smell as if you have just come out from bed."

Urban people will find the animal descriptions quite quaint, and our metrosexuals will probably object to one of the rules that state, "If you are a man, do not let your hair grow long because it is not proper for a man to knot his hair like a woman or to have it falling on his back. It is ugly to see a man who is effeminate."

It was perhaps beyond his comprehension to see women with a shaved head, masculine women, or even men with earrings—not to mention navel, nipple and penis rings.

Then there is a question of good taste or restraint in design. Lito Atienza's loud Hawaiian shirts would have been frowned upon in the 18th century, for "Lagda" dictates: "It is good that your dress should be like a flower, but remember that too many ornaments will make you look like a blooming gumamela. Therefore you should be moderate and should be in harmony with others."

Some rules do not change: "Do not let your nails grow long like the nails of a haw. Do not blow your nose with your dress, and do not wipe your mucus with your hands, with your sleeves, your pants or your skirts, and that is why you should carry a piece of cloth or a handkerchief. Do not spit too much, and when you do so, do not face the wind so that you will not spray your saliva on others."

Even posture and manner of walking are not spared: "Walk sedately, your body neither very stiff and erect nor your hips swaying—do not sway yourself like a banana leaf. Do not walk with mincing steps as if treading on glowing embers; do not walk too slow like a worm. Neither walk on the tips of your toes, nor drag your feet as if they were legs being hauled along. Do not swing your arms but put your hand beneath your cloth; if you cannot do this, fold them on your breast.

"Your head should be neither bowed nor held high like that of a chicken when drinking; do not look up at the windows of houses as if you were searching for bees; do not bend your head to one side or another as if a glowworm has entered it; do not open your eyes wide to look around or keep turning your head like a weather cock."

There is simply so much that would be out of date today, thus "Lagda" is read as history and helps us appreciate the world we live in at present.

History is often mistaken to be a look into the past for its own sake. But history only becomes relevant when we see ourselves in relation to the past.

What is it this thing we call "good manners"? In relation to what?

Books of manners are historical documents that tell us what life was like then, and when we compare this to manners in our time we gain perspective, which is a gift much needed in these noisy times.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

In touch

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I WAS IN CALIFORNIA WHEN PROCLAMATION 1017 WAS declared. That was the time I got to appreciate both the potentials and limitations of high-tech communications.

Thanks to the international cell phone roaming facility, I was able to get word about 1017 by text from friends in the Philippines and Belgium! I rushed to a computer to try to get news from the INQUIRER site on the Internet, but it looked like a million other Filipinos were of the same mind. Traffic was very bad and all I could get were the headlines.

I then turned to cable TV, switching from one channel to another. ABC, CBS, NBC were featuring reality shows and talk shows. Fox was busy attacking American liberals. CNN was featuring a hostage incident in Arizona. The smaller stations had televangelists and tele-marketers on screen.

When the dust settled, I got connected to the BBC through the Internet. CNN eventually picked up on the Philippines, showing footage of what looked like street riots, interspersed with videos of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo proclaiming 1017, without her voice. Text messages which continued to come in from friends and periodic checks with the INQUIRER site's Breaking News—as in every three or four hours—actually kept me more updated than if I had been at home.

We are fortunate, indeed, to live in an age of instant communications. The technology is especially important when you're constantly on the road. So let me share some of what I've learned.

'Fong kah'

Cell phones have become indispensable for travel. For overseas trips, it's important to bring your own cell phone with your Philippine SIM. Make sure to have this activated for international roaming. This allows your friends to send you text messages at P1 each, the regular local rate. Sending messages out is another matter because you get charged by your Philippine service provider, as well as by that of the country you're visiting. Each text message costs P10 to P20, after taxes. But be careful with calls. If someone calls you from the Philippines and you answer, the call is charged to you, and at very high rates. If you call out, you get charged with the rates of the country you're visiting, and again, that can come up quite high. Once I had to pay something like P250 per minute.

Remember that this applies as well to local calls, meaning if you're in the United States and calling a US number, you will be charged the American mobile phone rates, something like P25 to P50 a minute.

If you're going to be in another country for an extended period of time, it may be more cost-effective to just buy a prepaid SIM card there. You would then pay the local rates and could avail of discounts and other special deals. Get help, though, from a local because information materials are rarely in English.

An even cheaper alternative is to buy prepaid phone cards. You can get this in different denominations and they give you a local number to call, with a PIN number that you input. In the United States, prepaid cards allow you to call home for as low as 15 cents (P7.50) a minute. You save as well on calls within North America, at something like one cent a minute. Again, check with local residents or Pinoy expats for the cards with the best deals and on how to buy them. In Thailand, walk into any one of the thousands of 7-11 stores and sing out "fong kah" if you're looking to buy a phone card.

VOIP

Cell phones are wonderful—there's something exciting about being able to be in touch from anywhere you are. And I mean anywhere. I've sent text messages out while sitting in the ruins of the Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Borobodur in Indonesia. But while cell phones are convenient, the cheapest way to communicate in this high-tech age is still through computers. There is, of course, the e-mail, which keeps you in touch with family, friends, officemates. (Did I hear you groan?)

The most exciting development with the Internet has been the voice over Internet protocol (VOIP), better known simply as Internet phones. With this system, you use the Web to make phone calls, using a headset plugged into the computer. I can't go into details here in the column, but go into www.skype.com for the best system yet. If you have Skype in your laptop, or in the computers at home or in the office, you can make Skype to Skype calls for free!

If you are trying to contact someone who still doesn't have Skype installed, GlobeQuest announced last week a web-based phone service, called Innove, which allows calls from the Philippines to Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States at 8.6 cents (US) per minute. That's about P4.50, even cheaper than a local cell call.

There's more, of course, to the Internet than e-mail and VOIP. When overseas, I use the Internet to check the INQUIRER and other papers. Here in the Philippines, I use the Internet even more intensively, regularly browsing—when Yna allows me—through international newspapers and science journals, in between getting information on Yna's teething, vaccinations, language development.

Should you bring your own computer when you travel? Even a small laptop can be cumbersome, so you might want to just leave it at home. Fortunately, you'll now find Internet cafés everywhere, from Kathmandu to Timbuktu. Some offer VOIP. Ask around. In Indonesia, look for signs that read "Warnet," which means Warung Internet or an Internet Hut (*kubo*)!

Boon or bane?

There's still so much waiting to be discovered out there: BBC, for example, allows you to download earlier programs of music, literature and poetry readings and debates, which you can then play back on your computer or an MP3 player.

Our need to keep in touch spurred us to make all these technological advances in communications. But we need to pause at times and think about what it means to be wired, to be connected. My experience with American TV helps me to understand how, in the midst of such sophisticated information technology, Americans still end up so misinformed, so totally ignorant of the world.

The other wonders of information technology have their own allure. Easily, with wireless and satellite connections, one can eventually read the INQUIRER on a laptop, while sitting in the ruins of the Angkor Wat. Or text endlessly to friends back home that we're in Borobodur. We can, but do we want to?

Lester, an Indian friend, has declared Sundays as no-email day. I'm inclined to extend that into a no-computer, no-cellphone day.

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A disaster long in the making

LETTERS

I ONCE WORKED AT THE OFFICE of Natural Resources and Development Corp., an ancillary office of the Department of Agriculture. I was assigned to investigate illegal logging in Leyte sometime in 1989.

Here is what I saw: unmarked trees were cut down and the logs were fraudulently marked, then collected in a log pond atop the mountains. The logs would then be transported through the river stream to another pond before they were hauled to waiting trucks.

Back at the logged-over area, people burned what remained of the cut trees (which were not replaced) and then planted the area with rice and vegetables.

When I submitted my report to my superiors, the illegal loggers became furious. I was asked then to resign.

What happened to Leyte was a man-made disaster, not an accident of nature.

—JUN BORRES,
attyjunborres@yahoo.com

Media can encourage RP youth

I WAS NOT IN EDSA when people ousted President Marcos from power. I was not there either when people drove President Estrada out of Malacañang. I am now here in a foreign land studying, hoping to go back to my country and be a productive citizen.

I am proud to share the rich culture and history of the Philippines. I have high hopes that someday the Philippines will be known for its people's integrity, liberty and unity. Like it was in the past.

But it seems that our people have lost these values. We become so vigilant that we turn into ignoramuses. We go into a "revolution" without really evaluating what is happening. I plead with our people, the media and the government to please revive in ourselves our sense of integrity, liberty and unity.

People know that the media have the power to unite a nation or to sow anarchy; the media should use that power wisely. I know we don't live in a Utopia. But there are many good things that the media can emphasize to encourage the youth to become honest, loyal and productive citizens.

—JAYSON PAGADUAN,
1585 Kulanui St.,
Laie HI 96762,
USA

On Proclamation 1017

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

TO MY MIND, PROCLAMATION 1017 WAS PART OF THE PLAN-thoroughly studied by the bright boys of Malacañang to extend Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's stay in the presidency. The state of national emergency was declared not because of the alleged tactical alliance of communist guerrillas, the Right and the Center.

The clamor for Ms Arroyo to step down from office ensues from the convergence of so many issues—her failure to improve the economic lot of the Filipino majority, graft and corruption, smuggling, stealing, cheating, swindling, money laundering, the non-resolution of the "Jose Pidal" mystery, lack of government accountability, weak implementation of laws, her propensity to lie, her arrogance. These issues should be enough reason for Ms Arroyo to step down and pave the way for a snap election. This, I think, is the best option to restore sanity in our country today.—**Mike M. Moreno (via e-mail)**

* * *

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is the right Filipino to lead the country at this time. She is tough, smart and resourceful. She has what it takes to be the real leader of this country. Most Filipinos do not have self-discipline. She has to be tough to protect the nation from leftists, rightists, oppositionists, adventurists, opportunists and stubborn old-timer politicians like Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos and the others. The silent majority is smarter now than before.—**Franklin Rebutoc (via e-mail)**

* * *

We indulge in too many speculations and criticize too much. We have so many bright and smart people. We have too much freedom, too much democracy, too much press freedom. Too much is bad.

When there's too much, we have to balance; to balance is to regulate, to prevent the excess from spilling over. Spills cause a mess, which often leads to disorder and disarray.

What is government for if it won't stop the chaos? No other measure is needed in an emergency except emergency powers—to stop the confusion before it leads to anarchy and lawlessness.

Proclamation 1017 is justified.—**Godo Arago, California (via e-mail)**

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo should show that she is a strong President. Unfortunately her enemies will not go extinct like the dinosaurs. Why? All of them are power-hungry; they're willing to sacrifice us to the extent that they are now forming an alliance with the communists and the New People's Army. (Take note, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona called them "freedom fighters.")

President Arroyo should show these power-grabbers the true meaning of being President. She should jail them all, most especially the leftist congressman Satur Ocampo and his ilk in Congress!

Please, will someone tell the two former presidents to stop fighting the government and work with the incumbent President before the country is swept into total anarchy?—**Herson Aquino (via e-mail)**

* * *

The political crisis will not go away so long as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sits on a throne, because the opposition will continue to make noise and haunt her for the crisis she has created for herself.

However, to resolve the crisis, I suggest that we amend the Constitution to cut short the term of the President to four years. Or we can have a referendum on whether the President should stay until 2007 or 2008.—**George Garuza (via e-mail)**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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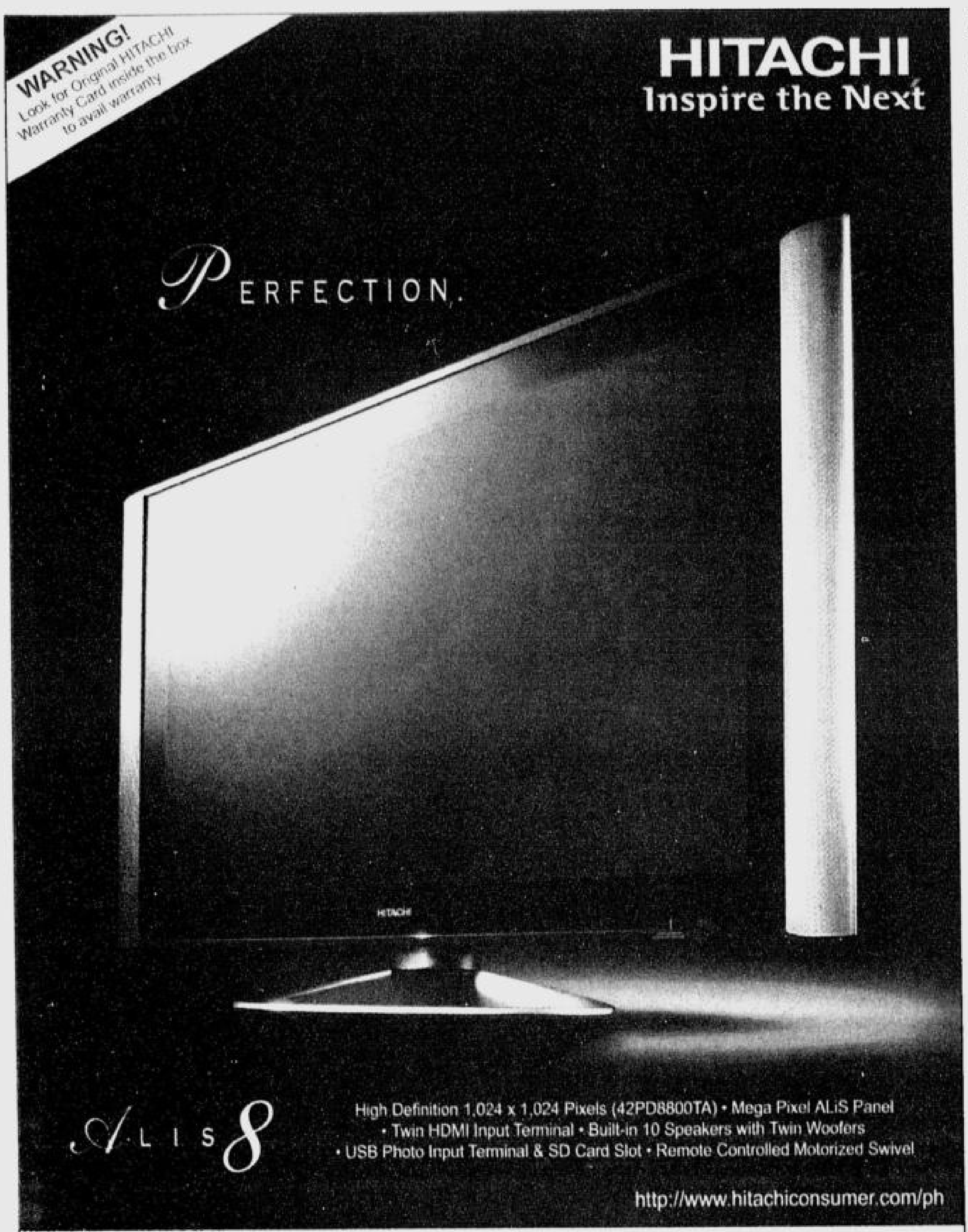

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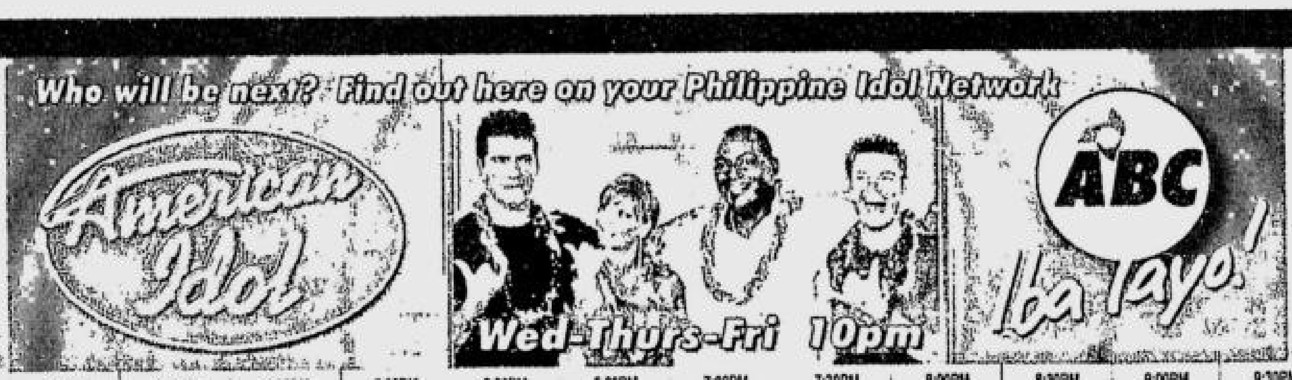
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	American Idol		Real Stories	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins		TV Patrol World	Gulong Ng Palad	Sa Piling Mo	Princess Lulu	Pinoy Big Brother		Kung Fu Fight Nights			Insider
AXN		Bowling For Columbine					Boarding Pass	Cold Squad (Season V)		Numb3rs (Season I)		Gamemax (Season II)	E Buzz	Red Water				Trapped	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Energy Bomb	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinemax			The Gorgon			Action Jackson			Deep Evil			Chips '99			Tears Of The Sun (9:40 PM)				Confidence (11:40PM)
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
ETC		Project Runway		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia		American Dreams 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	The Word Was Made Flesh	Angelus (3:15PM)	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Suffering And The Love Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Stations Of The Cross	EWTN Gallery	Super Saints	Life on The Rock Encore		Marriage Works In Christ	Defending Life	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of Catholic Church	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royal Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	La Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace		Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Judging Amy		McBride: Murder Past Midnight (3:50PM)			Ladies Man	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		Midsomer Murders: Ring Out Your Dead			Doc Martin (10:35PM)		Strong Medicine (11:25PM)
HBO	The Brooke Ellison Story (2:45 PM)			Passionada (4:15 PM)				Bad Apple			The Calcium Kid			Spider-Man 2				Mad Dog And Glory	
Hero TV	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Gatekeepers	The Wanderers	Combattler V	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Manny Pacquiao Sports Idol		Home Shopping Network		ME TV		Japan Video Topics		Global Family Songs	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Primetime Glick	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Life & Style				Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	5 Things About Lee Ryan	MTV Hits		Trippin	Pop Inc.		2006 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Hits			Get Hitch'd	Get Spotted	Diyes		VH1: Do It Like A Superstar: Dating	Trippin	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic	Wild Family Secrets	Explorations Powered By Duracell	Rough Trades	Amazing Moments		Battle Of The Arctic Giants		Top 5 - Mysterious Universe		Wow!		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Explorations Powered By Duracell	Rough Trades	Amazing Moments	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Auto Focus		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Init Sa Magdamag				Iduyan Mo Ang Duyan Ko				Sana'y Wala ng Wakas				Fight Night 5				Ang Kabit Ni Mrs. Montero
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zenki	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Irene	Mars	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Krusada Kontra Krimen		Global Window	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		World Poker		The Ultimate Fighter		Newswatch Now	TV Grats On Friday		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		SBN Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherds Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports		IBF German Open '04 WD Final			WTA 2005 Tour Champs by LA Round Robin					Sagupaan	NBA Jam	NBA Game: Nuggets @ 76ers					SportsdesK	Philippine Open Semifinals	
Sports Plus				ACC Basketball: Miami @ Duke				World Game		Rookie Manual		Nopi Tunervision 2	BD Molokai	FIFA Preview Series 4	Xotic Xtreme Ep. 04	Inside the PGA	Golf Today	The Honda Classic Day1	
Star Movies			Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey			John Carpenter's Ghosts Of Mars		Girl, Interrupted (6:55PM)				The Object Of My Affection				Rising Sun (10:50PM)			
Star World	8 Simple Rules	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		The Simpsons/ American Idol 2006	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends (Series 10)	TNA Wrestling/ American Idol 2006		The Collector		NYPD Blue		Friends (Series 10)	Walker Texas Ranger/American Idol 2006
Studio 23		Rave						The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup		Survivor Guatemala		Barkada Nights		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

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EDWIN BACASMAS/PDI PHOTO

MEMBERS of the Philippine Army wait to be deployed during the failed operations to find survivors in the landslide.

Leyte bishop puts 40 Guinsaugon orphans under care of diocese

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—BISHOP PRECIOSO CANTILLAS of the Diocese of Maasin has decided to take care of some 40 minors orphaned by the Feb. 17 landslide in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte.

Another 38 minors who lost either a father or a mother to the landslide would also get financial assistance to finish their studies, said Bishop Cantillas.

Cantillas said his diocese, through the diocese's social action center, is renting a small resort in Cabalian town, which adjoins St. Bernard, to temporarily shelter the orphaned minors for at least three months or at least until the school year ends.

"Our priority now is for them to finish their classes of this school year, and then we will ask them especially those who are going to college on where they want to enroll," Cantillas said in Cebuano.

The bishop said he did not know the exact ages of the orphans but he said they are mostly in high school.

Cantillas said he coordinated with Southern Gov. Rosette Lerias, St. Bernard Mayor Maria Lim and officials of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and they agreed with his plan to put the orphans in the diocese's care.

Cantillas said he decided to place the orphans under his care because of reports that human traffickers might prey on them.

Leyte was reported to be a transshipment point of young boys and girls from Visayas and Mindanao who, lured by promises of good jobs, end up in prostitution dens in Metro Manila.

Cantillas said his diocese also received generous cash donations from different parishes in Southern Leyte and other archdioceses and dioceses across the country for the landslide victims and he wanted it used for the orphans.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales was among the Catholic bishops who issued a directive to parishes to continue collecting donations for the landslide victims.

Cantillas said the orphans were in different evacuation centers while some were in the care of the Order of St. Francis (OSF) sisters at the Cristo Rey Regional School in St. Bernard.

He said the 40 orphans would be brought today to the Saludo Beach House in Cabalian town.

House body chair seeks closure of paper firm

BUTUAN CITY—THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST PAPER manufacturing firm faces closure over pollution charges.

Picop Resources Inc. (PRI), based in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, is in hot water following a visit to its plant site by the chair of the House committee on environment.

Rep. Nereo Acosta, chair of the House committee on environment, said PRI violated the country's laws on clean water and solid waste management.

"Closure should be in order because the health, environment and our ecology are at stake here," Acosta said.

He said his assessment was based on "validated and reliable" environmental studies on the operations of PRI.

He did not provide other details of the studies, which were being used by his committee in probing PRI.

But Domingo Tumambing, PRI spokesperson, said the company has always been complying with environmental standards.

Earlier, Florio Falcon, parish priest of Bislig, claimed that pollution caused by PRI's activities had already caused the deaths of at least 72 people.

Falcon said about 400 people were suffering from respiratory ailments.

"The government must act quickly, the water we drink and the air we breathe are killing us," the priest said.

Tumambing said Falcon's allegations were baseless and were part of a "smear campaign" against PRI.

"Father Falcon has neither the expertise nor the authority to declare that (PRI) is a polluter. It's the DENR (that has the expertise)," he said.

Acosta said that based on the studies, PRI's processing plants were spewing "highly toxic materials" that polluted the water and air resources of Bislig.

"Toxic carbon and sulfur contamination in water and air in Bislig is very high. It (PRI) really failed to meet the standards," he said.

Acosta, author of clean air, water and solid waste management environmental laws, said pollution in Bislig had reached a "grave ecological and environmental health crisis."

Reynaldo Villafuerte, regional director of the Environmental Management Bureau, said the pollution issue against PRI had already been referred to the Pollution Adjudication Board in Manila for resolution.

He said there had been no word yet on the status of the case. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pangasinan board OKs probe of Agno coal spill

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—THE provincial board will look into the coal spill that occurred almost three months ago in the western town of Agno.

On Dec. 18 last year, LCT Eisner ran aground in Sitio Talisay in Barangay Macaboboni, Agno, spilling some 300 cubic meters of coal into the sea.

The vessel, owned by Asian Shipping Corp., was bringing 4.6 metric tons of coal to the PNOC Exploration Corp. plant in San Fernando, La Union.

But strong winds grounded it in a coral line area off the fishing village.

Nick Melecio, a consultant of the provincial government, said that while the beach looked clean, its white sand had been covered by coal.

"The immediate physical effect of the spill is that corals have been covered and suffocated, driving fish away from their habitats.

"It's sad that the residents, who enjoy bountiful harvest, have lost their livelihood and have to resort to gathering white sand in the unaffected beach area," he said.

The worse is yet to come, said Reggie Regpala, a chemist of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. If nothing is done to remove the coal, the heavy metals they contain will eventually leach into the waters, he said,

Coal contains mercury, zinc, lead and arsenic. By then, the contaminated beach will be dangerous for swimming, and whatever fish and seaweeds are left will be unfit for eating.

Melecio proposed that the government and residents immediately clean up the area manually. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Ship catches fire off Cebu City; no one hurt

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A VESSEL CARRYING PASSENGERS and cargo yesterday caught fire 128 km off this city, but no one was reported hurt.

Superferry 12, of the Aboitiz Transport Services, was on its way to Cebu from Manila when fire struck its stateroom, a first-class accommodation on Deck 4, at 11:50 a.m., reports reaching the Coast Guard said.

John Rojo, the shipping firm's assistant vice president for public relations, said the management was still determining the cause of the fire.

Rojo said the fire was put out at 2:47 p.m. or almost three hours after it started. He said Coast guard personnel who inspected the vessel allowed the ship to continue its trip at past 3 p.m. Superferry 12 was supposed to arrive at the Cebu port at 8 p.m.

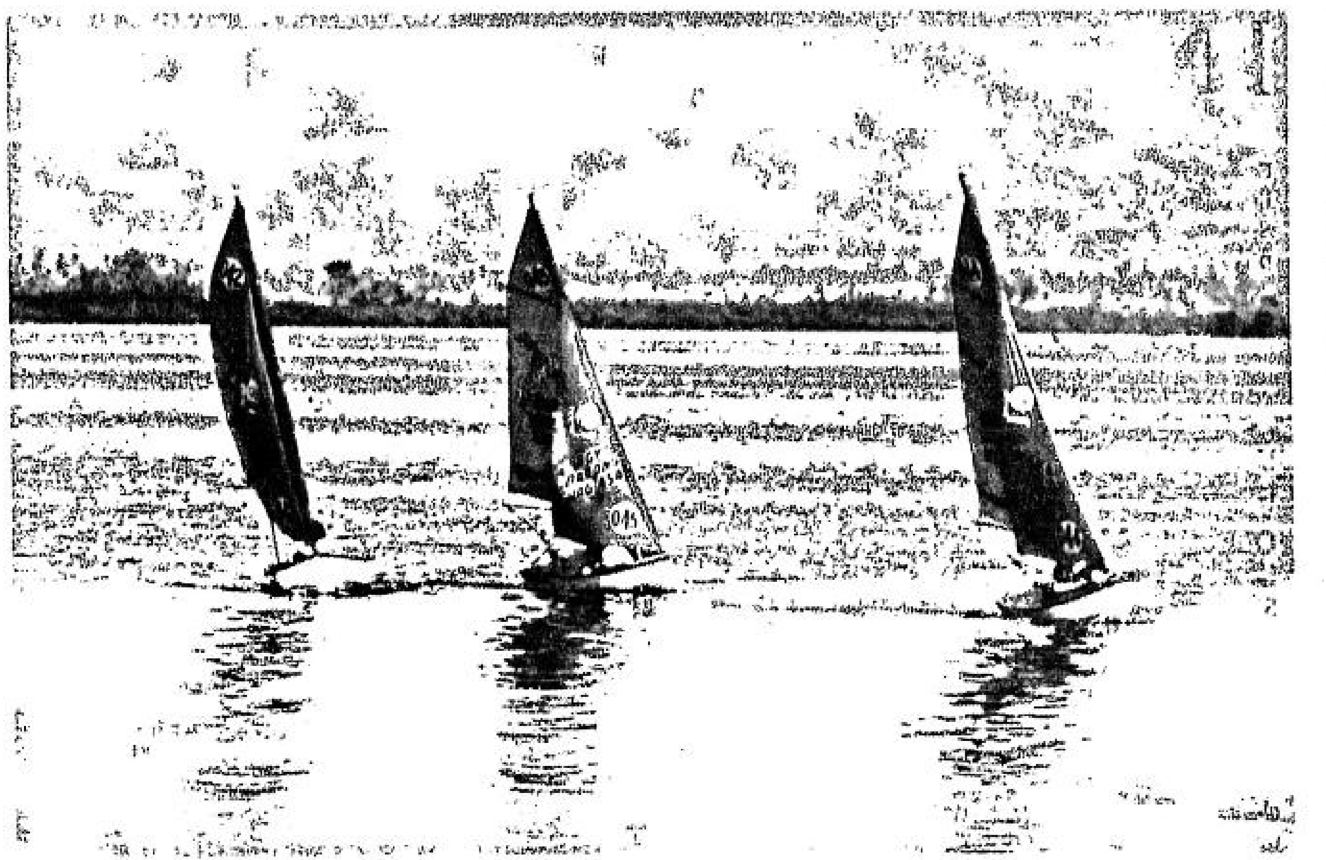
The ship was anchored at the vicinity of Bulalagui point, 60 nautical miles from the port until it was cleared to continue sailing.

Petty Officer 1st Class Pablo Gonzales, of the Hagnaya, San Remegio Coast Guard substation, said the ship's officers and crew led by their captain, Jose Yap, were the ones who put out the fire because Coast Guard personnel were not allowed at first to board the vessel.

Rojo said the engines were not damaged, but ship officials were assessing if they would allow Superferry 12 to proceed to its next stop, Cagayan de Oro City.

Manolito Malig-on, Cebu Coast guard station commander, said the ship's captain had been required to submit a marine protest so that an investigation could immediately begin.

Rojo said the Superferry management would cooperate in the probe.



BOAT RACE MELVYN CALDERON/CONTRIBUTOR
Sailboats join a regatta during the "Balayong Festival" in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

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ROUNDUP

Blast rocks bus terminal

COTABATO CITY—A powerful explosion rocked a bus terminal on Don Rufino Alonzo Street here Wednesday. No one was injured, police said. Senior Supt. Abubakar Mangelen, city police chief, said the explosion left a 17-by-30 cm crater on a Weena air-conditioned bus. The type of explosive used was unknown, said Mangelen, but the bombing could be the work of an extortion gang. Weena management admitted that the company had been receiving calls from extortionists.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

3 soldiers tagged in bus rob

COTABATO CITY—Three soldiers were identified as behind last week's bus robbery in Pikit, North Cotabato where a policeman died, a military spokesperson said. Lt. Col. Franklin del Prado, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said the suspects have already been detained. He said the soldiers faced administrative and criminal charges in connection with the robbery and the death of PO1 Rey Anselar. One of the robbers shot Anselar when the policeman tried to wrestle a gun from his companion. Passengers of the Cotabato City-bound Weena bus have identified the suspects, according to the police. "We should not condemn the entire organization as rotten because of one or two misguided ones. What is important is that the command does not tolerate misdeeds," Del Prado said.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Free legal aid launched

MAY KAKAMPI NA KAMI!

COTABATO CITY—The Rotary Club of Cotabato City-South will sponsor a free legal aid program for poor litigants of Central Mindanao on Saturday. Club president Virgilio Villa said the outreach program was a joint project of the group and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Cotabato City chapter. Regional Trial Court Judge Bansawan Ibrahim, the club's district assistant governor, said the program involved legal counseling and documentation of new cases involving poor clients. "It's a pity to know that many people could not afford to seek justice in court because of poverty," Samuel Fontanilla, former IBP chapter president, said.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

4 prisoners escape

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Four prisoners escaped from the town jail of Baggao, Cagayan on Monday. Senior Supt. James Andres Melad, Cagayan police director, said Jonathan Pasion, Emilio Soriano, Alejandro Saldivar and Erwin Jimenez (identified in other reports as Oying Tumenes) used a broken saw to cut the iron grills of their cell's window at 11:30 p.m. The prisoners are facing robbery in band, attempted homicide, estafa and rape charges. *Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Theft saddles Phivolcs

PELIGRO TAYONG LAHAT DITO!

LEGAZPI CITY—A six-member team from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the loss of state-of-the-art equipment installed around Mount Mayon had hampered its monitoring work. Elmer Gabinete, a member of the team, said the team would not only study Mayon's deformed edifice and its crater glow but also its current condition. Gabinete begged for the return of the equipment, saying "it will not be useful to anybody but to everybody who would be affected by Mayon's eruption." The devices, donated by the Japanese government, were reported stolen two years after they were placed in strategic places around the volcano.

Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'No GMA replacement'

SORSOGON CITY—The National Democratic Front-New People's Army can't identify any one from the opposition as a replacement for President Macapagal-Arroyo should she be removed from office or resign. This surfaced in an interview over radio station dzRS with Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, who said a good number of people could take the place of Ms Arroyo but failed to identify them. Pressed for a categorical answer as to who the NDF-NPA favors among the opposition leaders to replace Ms Arroyo, Rosal said a transition government to be run by a group of persons must take over once the President steps down while an election is being worked out.

Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PNP: We didn't arrest Risa, we got her out of harm's way

From page A1

lice official "clarified" yesterday. She was not even "invited" by the police for questioning.

The way Metro Manila police chief Vidal Querol put it, the police simply grabbed Baraquel during a rally by hundreds of women at the Mabuhay Rotonda in Quezon City on Wednesday to protect the Akbayan representative from harm. *(See related story on Page A2.)*

Out of harm's way

"Who says she was arrested? She was taken out of the rally site because of an impending dispersal," PNP Director Vidal Querol told reporters. "She was taken out of danger."

And what about the act of forcing Baraquel into a waiting vehicle? Querol termed it "police assistance," in language reminiscent of Newspeak in George Orwell's "1984" novel about a totalitarian society ruled by "Big Brother."

Querol said police decided to take Baraquel away because riot cops were about to disperse the demonstrators since they had no permit. The demonstrators were commemorating International Women's Day.

"She could get hurt. She might be wounded and get bloodied. All the more the police would be blamed," he said.

Police took Baraquel and about a dozen other protesters, including Joshua Mata, secretary general of the Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL), to Camp Karingal in Quezon City. All but Mata were subsequently released.

Baraquel was freed after a group of lawyers and lawmakers pointed out to the police that she was immune from suit as a member of Congress.

Police said at the time that she was not under arrest but had been merely "invited," a term which Baraquel, whose husband Francisco was himself a PNP superintendent at the time of his death last year, vehemently protested.

Safe house

"This arrest is veritable proof that despite the lifting of the Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, the President is bent on violating civil liberties to silence those who simply wish to have the truth exposed," Baraquel said shortly after she was hauled away.

Querol claimed the police knew that Baraquel and other members of Congress enjoyed immunity from arrest and took her to Camp Karingal because she would be safe there.

"When you bring a person to (another) place and then all of a sudden something foul happens, the police would again be blamed," he said.

But apart from saving Baraquel from possible harm, Querol said that by taking her away from the rally, police had also prevented her from violating the laws.

Citing the peaceful rally in Makati City on the same day, Querol said demonstrators must first obtain a permit. He said that should Baraquel attend a rally again without a permit, "we will do that over and over again to take her out of danger."

Insult to women

Police have charged Mata with illegal assembly after identifying him as the leader of the rally, a charge which the male activist protested as an insult to the women.

"It is insulting to the women that only I should be charged with leading the march when I'm not even a woman," Mata said in an interview yesterday.

"It's impossible for a man to lead a women's rally. I was there only to support the women."

An inquest prosecutor recommended bail of P2,000 for Mata, who was scheduled to be released yesterday after his lawyers posted the bond. He said he suspected authorities delayed his inquest so he would be forced to spend a night in jail.

Mata said there was no justification for the "warrantless" arrests, since the demonstrators had not violated any laws.

He said the APL had applied for a permit from Manila City Hall on March 6. Since the city government did not act on the application, it was deemed approved under BP 880, he said.

The labor leader said he would consult with his lawyers to determine the "highest possible" charge he could lodge against the police for beating him hard with their truncheons during the dispersal of the rally. *With a report from DJ Yap*

Defensor apologizes to Baraquel

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF OF STAFF MICHAEL Defensor said yesterday he had apologized to Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel for her "arrest" last Wednesday as police broke up an International Women's Day rally, and announced that the National Security Council would convene next week to review the government's controversial calibrated preemptive response policy (CPR).

Defensor told reporters that he checked with police officials about the incident and was told that Baraquel was not arrested but merely taken "out of harm's way" during the dispersal of the ralliers because she was a member of Congress. *(Story on Page A1)*

He said he considered Baraquel a friend and had personally apologized to her for what happened.

To qualify CPR

"The NSC will be discussing all of these ... we will qualify the CPR," he added.

One of the things that would be discussed was the possibility of allowing protesters to continue with their rallies even after the deadlines stated in their permits had expired as long as the demonstrators did not impede traffic.

"For instance, if a rally blocks a street or impedes the flow of traffic, they may be moved back but they will not be dispersed so their rally can go on," Defensor said in Filipino.

Defensor said he was for freedom of assembly and freedom of speech as long as traffic was not impeded.

"The policy has to be qualified to avoid these situations," he said. *Christine O. Avendaño*

'Fantastic' role ...

From page A1

try's pioneering career women, died on March 7 surrounded by her children and grandchildren. She was 89. She was the first female Cabinet secretary and the first Filipino clinical psychologist.

Despite being diagnosed with chronic leukemia, Aldaba-Lim continued to "move around holding meetings and consultations" on her endeavors, the latest of which was the 50-unit Gawad Kalinga Aldaba Hills housing village in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Lazaro said her mother spent her 89th birthday on Jan. 6 in San Jose del Monte, distributing pails of goodies to the beneficiaries of her housing project.

It would be one of her mother's better days in the last six months which had been spent going in and out of the hospital, Lazaro said.

"She had good times and she had her bad times, but she remained active," Lazaro said.

Aldaba-Lim, the former assistant secretary general of the United Nations Children's Fund's International Year of the Child, fell into a coma two months ago, and was placed on a life support system at a hospital, her daughter said.

Go in dignity

Last month, Lazaro said the family decided to bring their mother home.

"We knew she was fading. We wanted her to go in peace as naturally as possible. We wanted her to go in dignity," Lazaro said.

"Given the choice, she would have gone on March 1," Lazaro said.

According to her, March 1 was the death anniversary of their father, Luis Lim Sr., who passed away in 1962, leaving behind Aldaba-Lim, then a teacher, with six young children.

Fantastic role model

"She was a fantastic role model. She had a career but she was also active at home, like she even had time to sew our school uniforms," Lazaro said.

Aldaba-Lim was also a former secretary of social welfare and president of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines. She also founded the Museo Pambata in Manila.

Aside from Lazaro and her husband, Aldaba-Lim left behind children Nina Yuson, Bertie and Carla, Louie and Frieda, Winnie and Patty Yusah, and Ricky and Regina, and 17 grandchildren.

Aldaba-Lim was regarded as a trailblazer, especially in the fields of psychology and social work.

After getting her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, Aldaba-Lim returned to the Philippines and became the first Filipino woman clinical psychologist in 1948. That same year, she set up the Institute of Human Relations at Philippine Women's University, where she had received her bachelor's degree in secondary education. She got her MA in clinical psychology from the University of the Philippines.

First woman Cabinet secretary

Aldaba-Lim was also the first woman Cabinet member, serving as social services and development secretary from 1971 to 1977.

She was the first woman to become special ambassador to the United Nations, with the rank of assistant secretary general during the International Year of the Child in 1979.

She travelled to more than 60 countries in two years, meeting with world leaders and laying the foundation for the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child. For this, she received the UN Peace Medal Award from then Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

Museo Pambata

Aldaba-Lim cofounded in 1994 the Museo Pambata, the first children's museum in the Philippines, a venue for alternative learning for children, especially those without access to formal education.

She was also a former chair of the Council for the Welfare of Children, and a former member of Sagip Kabataan and Catholic Charity (Caritas).

In 2001, at the age of 84, she became founding chair of the Women of Malolos Foundation, which aims to keep the memory and principles of the 21 Women of Malolos alive.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

January 2, 2006

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 05, s-2006

TO : All LGUs, Legislators, Private Entities and All Others Concerned

SUBJECT : Amendment of PhilHealth Circulars 21 and 23, s-2005 for the Extension of the Validity of the Special LGU Premium Counterpart Contribution and Oplan 2.5 Million Renewal

In consonance with PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 852, s-2005 extending the renewal of 2.5 Million indigent families and to ensure sustainability of membership of indigent families enrolled under the Sponsored Program through the Enhanced PCSO Greater Medicare Access Program, PhilHealth Circular Nos. 21 and 23, s-2005 are hereby amended.

The Oplan 2.5 Million Renewal and the Special LGU Premium Counterpart Contribution shall be valid during the transition year 2005-2006 for the membership renewal of indigent families enrolled under the Sponsored Program through the Enhanced PCSO Greater Medicare Access Program. Hence, the LGUs have until June 2006 to avail of these schemes.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO, CESO III
Officer-in-charge
Office of the President and Chief Executive Officer

The PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.

2nd flr, Humanities Bldg., Philippine Science High School,
Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City

has re-scheduled its ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING to APRIL 22, 2006, 2:00pm at the AV Rm, ASTB, PSHS, Agham Road, Quezon City.
The Agenda includes the President's Report; the Treasurer's Report; the Ratification of Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws; and the Election of Trustees.

Life and regular members are asked to please respond immediately to this notice by signifying your intention to attend or by accomplishing a proxy form and send it to the Foundation Office at above address.

Notices by mail have also been sent to all life and regular members at their last known addresses. Thus, should we not receive any response, not later than 5 days before the meeting, we shall presume that you have passed away, moved to an address unknown to us, or are no longer interested in your membership, any one of which reason will terminate your membership in the Foundation.

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Sgd. JOSE M. RICAFRENTE, Corporate Secretary

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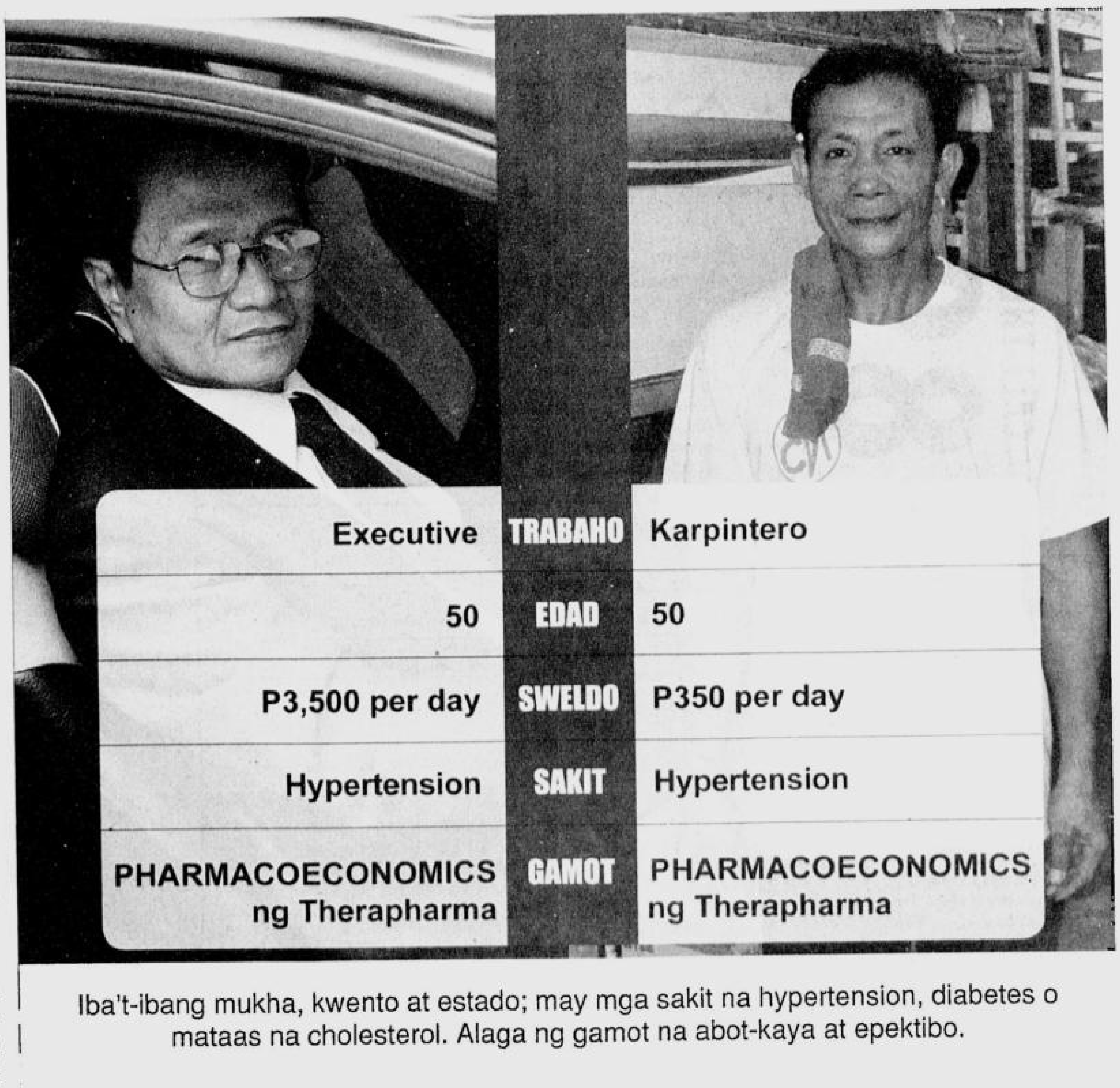

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DOJ junks ₱151-M tax evasion case vs Lee

From page A1

cash-strapped Arroyo administration from collecting P151 million in taxes.

Strange

Agbeppa said it was strange that the justice department didn't find the officials of Columbia liable.

"There was apparently an assignment of the shares and changing of the officers. But we're charging the corporation, not just its officers," she said.

In fact the company had not been sold to anybody.

"There was just a transfer of shares of stock to Arnold Jimenez, Luis Gatchalian, Harry Tan, Marry Joy Ang and Jocelyn Santos," the BIR lawyer said.

She said the tax liability was not extinguished by the mere assignment of shares.

The RATE task force deemed it proper to contest the DOJ resolution on Columbia Sports through a motion for reconsideration (MR) but the justice department appeared to be dragging its feet.

"As of last week, I asked the fiscal on the status of the MR. He said he was still in the process of resolving it," Agbeppa said.

Agbeppa said all DOJ resolutions passed through the office of the (justice) secretary before they could be promulgated.

Lee was among the suspected smugglers named at a recent Senate hearing along with Vicky Toh and Lucio Lao Co, who were purportedly close to First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

Police arrested Lee on Sunday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon his return from Hong Kong for allegedly ordering the diversion of three container vans of plastic resin from a customs bonded warehouse to a company in Valenzuela City.

He was released at 6 p.m. on Wednesday after posting bail set by a Manila Regional Trial Court at P360,000. Prosecutors recommended earlier in the day that Lee and his cohorts be slapped with three counts of smuggling in connection with the diversion of the container vans.

Do homework

Told that the government lost millions with the dismissal of the case, Gonzalez replied: "They (BIR) should have done their homework before filing the case."

He complained that the BIR had been found to have been filing "haphazard cases" under its RATE program, resulting in the dismissal of many of them.

The BIR also filed tax evasion cases in April 2005 against three firms believed to be fronting for Lee—Nitoka Industrial Corp., Mitsuko Philippines Corp. and Pine River International Corp. Lee is listed as treasurer of Nitoka.

"They're all (Lee's) dummy corporations," said Stimson Cureg, one of the five revenue officers at the BIR National Investigation Division who built up the tax evasion case.

The case against Columbia Sports stemmed from its nonfiling of tax returns for 2002 and 2003 although it imported P599 million worth of goods in 2002 and P2.8 billion in 2003.

Columbia is engaged in manufacturing, importing, exporting, buying and selling gloves, mittens, hats, garments, textiles, bags and other related goods.

The BIR listed as Columbia's corporate officers Vincent Lim (president), Luis Ng Lim (executive vice president and general manager) and Lilian Cua (treasurer).

Parayno

Guillermo Parayno Jr., who was the BIR commissioner when the case was filed against Columbia Sports, claimed in a charge sheet addressed to Gonzalez that the company earned income "as per the data of the Bureau of Import Services."

"The goods imported by Columbia for years 2002 and 2003, whether further processed or reexported or sold locally in their original form, should have, in the normal course of business, generated income for the corporation," Parayno said.

Despite the income it presumably earned, Columbia, through its "responsible corporate officers," did not declare any income when it failed to file income tax returns for 2002 and 2003.

"Needless to state, under the tax code, every corporation is required to file the necessary VAT (value-added tax), income and withholding tax returns of which herein respondents failed to do," Parayno said.

The tax liability of Columbia amounted to P26,503,450 in 2003, and P125,258,676 in 2003, according to the BIR.

Deeds of assignments

In the four-page decision, prosecutor Dayog noted that respondents had contended that the nonpayment of tax returns "cannot be imputed to them as they were not the stockholders, directors or officers of Columbia during that period of time."

He said the respondents ceased to be corporate officers on June 26, 2001, when they transferred all their interests to Jimenez, Gatchalian, Tan, Ong and Santos "by virtue of deeds of assignments."

The BIR argued that the deeds of assignments "were of doubtful validity as they did not specify the consideration for the transfers and the specific addresses of the transferees."

"There is no showing that respondents actually ceased to be responsible officers of Columbia even after the transfer of their interests to the new stockholders," it said.

In dismissing the case, the justice department said "we cannot sustain the contention of complainant ... There is no evidence to support suspicion that the deeds of assignment were simulated."

Both Gonzalez and Dayog appeared surprised when told that the respondents could be serving as Lee's dummies.

"They should charge him (Lee) for violating the anti-dummy law. You have to back up your complaint with evidence," Gonzalez said.

Right set of respondents

He said the BIR's failure to charge the right set of respondents allegedly fronting for a firm owned by Lee resulted in the dismissal of the tax evasion case against Columbia.

"Those who incurred the supposed liabilities were the current officials, but the BIR charged the previous officials," Gonzalez said.

Dayog told the INQUIRER yesterday that the previous stockholders signed a deed of assignment transferring stocks to another set of owners. "On that basis, I dismissed the complaint," he said.

"The respondents were initially stockholders of Columbia, but during taxable year 2002 and 2003, a new set of officers came in. So they are not the proper respondents in the case. That's the basis for my dismissal," Dayog said.

He said it was obvious that the changes in the set of officials running Columbia was not reflected in the records of the Securities and Exchange Commission, on which the BIR based its complaint.

Motion for reconsideration

But the BIR filed a motion for reconsideration on the matter, maintaining that it was really after the firm, not the set of officials. The issue remains pending in the office of Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

However, Gonzalez said this was not legally feasible.

"That is the law. You do not send to jail the corporation. You send to jail the respondents," Gonzalez said.

Dayog said the BIR could refile the case against the right set of officials.

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Kin of stampede victims...

From page A1

"We were not satisfied with the [results of the] investigation; we felt dismayed."

The Department of Justice has set the start of the preliminary investigation on March 20.

But according to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, the department was still studying the possibility of including Lopez in the list of those to be held liable for the stampede that marked what was to have been the first-anniversary celebration of the ABS-CBN game show "Wowowee."

The stampede killed 71 people and injured hundreds of others.

Asked by reporters whether Lopez would be included in the criminal complaint, Gonzalez said that in issues involving "reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple injuries," the liability could reach up to the "owner."

He likened the issue to a public vehicle whose owner would be partly answerable in case of an accident, and said there was a wealth of jurisprudence citing the liability of bus owners in "motor vehicle accidents."

Gonzalez also said the justice department was studying the "hierarchy of responsibility." He noted that Lopez's earlier admission of responsibility would "play a factor" in his department's decision.

ABS-CBN's Maloli Manalastas told GMA 7 last night that the network was prepared to face any investigation.

'Some changes'

On Wednesday the NBI recommended the filing of criminal charges against 17 persons, including ABS-CBN executive vice president Charo Santos-Concio and "Wowowee" host Wilfredo "Willie" Revillame.

It also recommended the filing of administrative charges against Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio in the Department of Interior and Local Government.

The NBI did not find the Pasig police and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority liable for the stampede.

Asked what he thought of the NBI report, Gonzalez said he was "satisfied" with it but wanted to introduce "some changes."

He said he could either expand or "overturn" the recommendations.

"Right now we are not including him (Lopez), but we are still reviewing the case," Gonzalez said, adding that among the other matters being studied was Eusebio's "culpability."

He pointed out that under an administrative complaint, Eusebio could be reprimanded or suspended, but not dismissed.

"The matter of the liability of public officials is whether the [criminal act] committed merits a degree of punishment that will mean disqualification from holding public office ... or whether it involves moral turpitude, which can be penalized by suspension," Gonzalez said.

'Mere employees'

He added that the justice department was reviewing the "arrangements" between the "Wowowee" organizers and the Pasig government to determine the extent of Eusebio's liability.

The VACC's Jimenez said Lopez should be included in the charge sheet because he had also benefited from "Wowowee" as the owner of the network.

"When you earn [money] from something and then something bad happens, there must be a corresponding liability to assume," Jimenez told the INQUIRER.

He said Concio, Revillame et al. were "mere employees" doing their jobs.

"It is like indicting only the driver of a car and forgetting the liability of the owner," he added.

Jimenez said former Pasig police chief Medina should have also been included in the NBI list because there was negligence on his part.

"There was already imminent and inevitable danger at that time, but the Pasig policemen's lack of foresight resulted in the tragedy. So he (Medina) should be made answerable for such negligence," Jimenez said.

Jimenez also warned the victims of the stampede to be wary of supposed social workers asking victims to sign blank waivers.

"I advise them to seek help from knowledgeable people before they sign anything," he said.

Broken bones

Survivor Catubig, who suffered broken bones in the stampede, said Lopez should be indicted "because he was aware of the operations of 'Wowowee.'"

"In the first place, the preparation for the show's anniversary would not have pushed through if he did not allow it," Catubig said.

Apart from Lopez, Catubig said, the "Wowowee" staff member who announced that they would begin letting people inside the stadium should also be held liable.

"He announced on a megaphone that people would be let in on a first-come-first-served basis. It was this announcement that caused the crowd to start jostling for position in order to be among the first 300 inside," Catubig said.

He said he could not recall the man's name but would recognize his face.

Catubig recalled staking out the stadium for 24 hours, sustained by the thought that he would be among the first people inside once the gates were opened.

He said he was very near the gate when it gave way and an estimated crowd of 15,000 tried to push its way through.

Chance to answer

In Pasig, Mayor Eusebio said he welcomed the recommending of administrative charges against him.

"This is a chance for me to be able to answer the allegations against me. I have already asked my lawyer to explain my side," he told the INQUIRER.

He added: "I believe in our justice system. I know the Department of Justice will be fair and just."

Eusebio declined further comment, saying he would "answer the allegations in the proper forum." *With reports from Tina G. Santos and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation are being offered for Sale

PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	SELLING PRICE	REMARKS
CAVITE					
1. B2 L23 J.P. Laurel St., Villa Elisa Homes, Anabu 2, Imus	R H	24	38	216,480.00	TCT for consolidation
2. B6 L26 Sampan Road, Regatta Classic III, Anabu 2-B, Imus	TH	41	35	282,700.00	TCT for consolidation
3. B3 L9 J. Laurel St., Villa Elisa Homes, Anabu 2, Imus	SA	33.6	66.50	426,140.00	TCT for consolidation/occupied
4. B9 L43 Alfonso Village, Alapan 1-B, Imus	RH	40	55	377,300.00	TCT for consolidation/occupied
5. B2 L20 Vinta Road, Regatta Classic III, Anabu 2-B, Imus	TH	41	35	249,700.00	TCT for consolidation
6. B5 L4 E. Quirino St., Villa Elisa Homes, Anabu 2, Imus	SA	33.6	66.5	373,340.00	TCT for consolidation
7. B9 L18 F. Ramos St., Villa Elisa Homes, Anabu 2, Imus	SA		83.5	409,860.00	TCT for consolidation
8. B4 L30 S. Osmeña St., Villa Elisa Homes, Anabu 2, Imus	SA	33.6	66.5	382,140.00	TCT for consolidation
9. B4 L5 Regatta Ave., Regatta Classic IIB, Anabu 2-B, Imus	RH	36	50	303,800.00	TCT for consolidation
10. B17 L44 Bahayang Pag-asa, Woodsite 2, Pasong Buaya, Imus	TH	42	35	294,250.00	TCT for consolidation/occupied
11. B12 L1 Alfonso Village, Alapan 1-B, Imus	RH	40	80.7	449,350.00	TCT for consolidation/occupied
12. B5 L4 Alfonso Village, Alapan 1-B, Imus	RH	40	38	273,680.00	TCT for consolidation/occupied
13. B10 L26 Alfonso Village, Alapan 1-B, Imus	RH	64	.38	328,680.00	TCT for consolidation/occupied
14. B4 L9 ACM Woodstock Homes Ph 1, Alapan 1-A, Imus	2 stryDX	73	76	556,380.00	TCT for consolidation/occupied
15. B14 L16 Alfonso Village, Alapan 1-B, Imus	RH	46	38	273,680.00	TCT for consolidation/occupied
16. B9 L25 Alfonso Village, Alapan 1-B, Imus	RH	40	38	289,080.00	TCT for consolidation/occupied
17. B12 L22 Alfonso Village, Alapan 1-B, Imus	RH	40	42	279,620.00	TCT for consolidation/occupied
QUEZON CITY					
18. B19 L13 New Capitol Estate, Diliman	TH	117	61	1,079,100.00	Vacant
19. B7 L15 New Capitol Estate, Diliman	TH	72	56	886,600.00	with occupant

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(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DELOS SANTOS
OIC, VICE PRESIDENT
PROJECT MANAGEMENT/ACQUIRED
ASSETS DISPOSITION GROUP

(PDI - March 10, 2006)

DCI INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DBP Data Center, Inc. (DCI) is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of Information Technology Equipment and Services

Lot	Description	Budget, 12 % VAT Inclusive
A	Supply of 6 EDGE switches and 2 CORE switches and software with installation and customization services	Php 1,800,000.00
B	Supply and Installation of Structured Cabling (406 nodes)	Php 1,500,000.00

Schedule of Activities:

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	March 13 to 20, 2006
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	March 24, 2006 at 2:00 pm
Issuance of Bid Documents to Eligible Suppliers	March 28, 2006
Pre-Bidding Conference	March 30, 2006 at 2:00 pm
Deadline for Submission of Questions	March 31, 2006 at 5.00 pm
Response to Submitted Questions	April 4, 2006 at 5:00 pm
Submission and Opening of Technical and Financial Proposals at 2:00 pm of date specified	For Lot A on April 12, 2006 For Lot B on April 18, 2006
Issuance of Notice of Award	For Lot A on April 19, 2006 For Lot B on April 28, 2006

Application for eligibility check is open to suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry and have been engaged in the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Information Technology Equipment for at least three (3) years and must be at least 60% Filipino owned (for partnership and corporations).

Interested suppliers may secure the Eligibility Requirement Form from the BAC Secretariat c/o Ms. Rosalyn Tañagras (Phone 848-0277) at the 22nd floor, Pacific Star Building, Senator Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A).

The DBP Data Center, Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to this Government-owned and Controlled Corporation.

(PDI-March 10 & 17, 2006)

METROBRIEFS

Shoe in other foot

HULI KA!
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ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

SIX policemen assigned at the Caloocan City Warrant and Subpoena Section are now facing arrest after a rice trader they apprehended earlier for alleged estafa accused them of extortion. Chief Insp. Rio Gatocllo head of the Northern Police District Investigation Unit said extortion charges have been filed against suspects SPO3 Alfredo Capuyan, PO3 Jesus Agrava, PO1 Marlon Blando, SPO3 Cecile de Leon, PO3 Alexander Ibe and SPO1 Hermenigildo Sandel in the City Prosecutor's Office yesterday following a complaint by Myrna Casapaw of Dagat-dagatan, Caloocan City. The rice trader alleged that the policemen on two separate occasions (Dec.22, 2005 and March 2, 2006) arrested her by virtue of a search warrant issued by a Cavite City judge.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Mandaluyong's gift to women

THE CITY government of Mandaluyong will host a two-day affair for its women residents as part of women's month. The affair, dubbed "Ganda ng Nanay Ko," is sponsored by the city government and the Green Ladies Movement headed by Queenie Gonzales, wife of Mayor Neptali Gonzales II, together with Che-Che Pablo-Santos and Baby Pillas. Among the free services are breast examinations, pap smears, bone scans, eye check-ups, ECG, reflexology, dental care, hair cuts and facials. A job fair aimed at facilitating placements for women will also be held on March 18 at the city gymnasium.

Water cutoff in Manila

SOME areas of Manila will have no water for 20 hours starting at 11 p.m., Saturday, until 7 p.m., Sunday, due to the replacement of the existing 500mm gate valve along Abad Santos corner Quiricada St. in Sta. Cruz. The areas that will have no water for 20 hours include the following: the area bounded by Dagupan Ext., Estero de Maypajo, Rizal Avenue, Antipolo, Estero de San Lazaro, Quiricada and Estero dela Reyna; bounded by Juan Luna, Estero de Maypajo, Dagupan Ext., and Tayabas St; and bounded by Estero de Kabulusan, Estero de la Reyna, Recto, Estero de Magdalena, Quiricada and Dagupan Ext., Manila. Areas that will have low pressure to no water, on the other hand, include the area bounded by Moriones, Nolasco, Estero dela Reina, Ilaya, C.M. Recto, Estero de Magdalena and Estero de San Lazaro, Manila. The repair work is part of Maynilad's program to improve its water service.

3 cops in 'wrong car' case test positive

By Luige A. del Puerto

THREE OF THE SEVEN policemen who figured in the wounding of a business executive in Pasig City in a case of mistaken identity have tested positive for powder burns, the police said.

A report from the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory said the right hands of P02 Renato Salinas and P01 Jeffrey Abiad tested positive for gunpowder nitrates. The left hand of P02 Mario Aresta was also positive for gunpowder residue, the report added.

Four other officers—SP02 Jaime de Guzman, P02 Marcelino Dacoylo, P02 Arthur Olosan, and P02 Gary Delgado tested negative for gunpowder residue, according to the report.

The policemen were sacked, along with four other officers—SP02 Jaime de Guzman, P02 Marcelino Dacoylo, P02 Arthur Olosan, who were on board mobile No. 99, and P02 Gary Delgado.

But their woes did not appear to stop there. The policemen were not even supposed to be in the area where a Toyota Vios driven by a pharmaceutical firm executive was shot at by law enforcers by mistake, according to officials from the Traffic Management Group (TMG).

"The policemen heard the flash alarm from headquarters and responded on their own," said Sr. Supt. Elmer Soria, chief of the National Capital Region-TMG, referring to the officers on board Police Mobile 13.

The police were still investigating if there were orders for them to leave the TMG headquarters in Camp Crame in response to the alarm.

Aresta and Salinas are from the TMG-Special Operations Group while Abiad is from the office of the TMG director, Chief Supt. Augusto Angcanan.

Angcanan himself was furious at the officers who had fired at the wrong car. "There should have been a strict observance of the chain of command. It seemed that these people heard there was trouble through a flash alarm and rushed to the area even without instructions from their immediate officer," Angcanan told ANC TV.

The responding policemen had opened fire at a silver Toyota Vios on E. Rodriguez corner Lanuza Streets in Barangay Ugong, Pasig City. On board the car was business executive Randolph Clarito, 46. He was wounded in the leg and shoulder. They were supposed to be chasing suspected car thieves on board a silver Toyota Altis.

The police said the Vios "suddenly emerged" from the street where the Altis was sighted. When its driver allegedly failed to heed the police's call to stop, the cops peppered it with bullets.

There was a lack of communication between men from the three mobile cars that responded to the alarm, according to Soria. The men from Mobile 10 had not immediately informed their colleagues in the two other police cars, through the radio, that the Altis had been found.

Quoting Angcanan, Soria said the the police "should not have fired" at the Toyota Vios. "You don't need a police operational procedure to know that what they did was wrong," Angcanan told reporters. "That was very basic—there was no threat to their lives but they fired at the Vios."

Clarito, an executive vice president of a pharmaceutical company, is preparing to file charges against the TMG operatives who opened fire at his car and had wounded him in the process. He was on his way to his Pasig home when the incident occurred, he said. "Saying sorry is a good initial step. "Firing them is good and appropriate. But there is the issue of accountability," Clarito told reporters

Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino told the INQUIRER he had already formed a task force headed by his deputy director to investigate the incident.

With Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

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Grenade shell slows traffic in Pasay, Makati

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TRAFFIC WAS SNARLED FOR hours in the cities of Pasay and Makati yesterday morning when what looked like a fragmentation grenade was found in an alley on F.B. Harrison Street.

But the grenade turned out to be be just a shell of the original.

"It only contained sand," Southern Police District Chief Wilfredo Garcia told the INQUIRER.

The object was discovered by street sweepers at 8:45 a.m. at the corner of Gil Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia) and F.B. Harrison Street.

The area was cordoned off by Pasay's Special Weapons and Tactics-Explosives Ordnance Division (SWAT-EOD) as the team inspected the object.

The incident caused traffic jams along several streets of Pasay and Makati.

SP03 Eduardo Juarbal said the incident could be related to a feud between two groups of tenants of a condominium on F.B. Harrison Street.

The groups were apparently fighting over ownership of certain units at the condominium, and the grenade could have been used as a scare tactic, police said.

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Eusebio stripped of authority over Pasig police

By Tarra V. Quismundo
and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PASIG CITY MAYOR VICENTE "ENTENG" EUSEBIO yesterday lost operational control over the local police as a result of his order to demolish a "shabu supermarket" in his city.

An en banc resolution of the National Police Commission (Napolcom) withdrew Eusebio's deputation as a Napolcom representative.

The commission ruled that the mayor committed "abuse of authority" when he ordered the dismantling of an alleged shabu complex in Sitio Mapayapa, Barangay Sto. Tomas, Pasig City.

Eusebio personally supervised demolition crews on Feb. 15 in destroying 53 shanties standing on a 600-sq.-m compound in Sitio Mapayapa, suspected of being a one-stop-shop for users of illegal drugs.

Police operations in the area earlier led to the arrest of more than 300 persons caught allegedly using drugs. "The Napolcom is fully convinced that the immediate destruction of the shanties is unwarranted and illegal, as the shabu den will be used as evidence in prosecuting the apprehended suspected drug users and maintainers," said Napolcom vice chair Imelda Roces.

No interference

Napolcom chair Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the commission's action was meant to ensure that the investigation could proceed without interference from local officials.

"This is in order to make the investigation aboveboard and free of suspicions of being tainted by the participation of people who might be the subject of investigation," he told the media in a briefing yesterday.

With Eusebio stripped of his authority over the city's police force, the Pasig police force is now directly under PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao, said Puno. Under the law, mayors can be named Napolcom deputies and supervise the local police.

The commission found Eusebio's demolition order a violation of Presidential Decree No. 1829 which penalizes "altering, destroying, suppressing, or concealing" any piece of evidence that may affect its "legibility, availability or admissibility... in any investigation or official proceedings in criminal cases."

In spite of the Napolcom decision, Eusebio told the INQUIRER he would still support the local police. "I will buy them new patrol cars. I will order the repair of their offices. We will help them with everything they need," Eusebio said.

The city government had claimed the demolition of the shabu supermarket was in response to the clamor of the residents in the neighborhood. But the Napolcom decision said the "immediate destruction of the shanties is unwarranted and illegal."

Eusebio said losing supervision over the police would enable him to concentrate on other things, adding that he had a lot of work to do.

Review

Meanwhile, in an effort to restore public trust in the police force , the Napolcom set up a team to review existing rules of engagement in view of recent operations that generated controversy.

Puno announced yesterday that the commission created a five-man review committee to see if current police operational procedure needed amendment or improvement. He added that they wanted to reassure the public that the PNP was there to serve the people.

Napolcom Commissioner Miguel Coronel will head the review committee that also includes the PNP's director for investigation and detective management, director for Operations and director for legal services; and Napolcom's legal services director.

Puno said one of the priority issues would be police "invitations" and the setting up of checkpoints.

The other day, police "invited for questioning" Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel despite the lifting of Presidential Proclamation 1017 by President Macapagal-Arroyo. The police bodily carried Baraquel, who was participating in an assembly in Quezon City commemorating International Women's Day. She was later released by virtue of parliamentary immunity.

As for the checkpoints, considered as routine anti-crime operation, Puno said guidelines would be reviewed. He said people's confidence in the checkpoints had to be restored.

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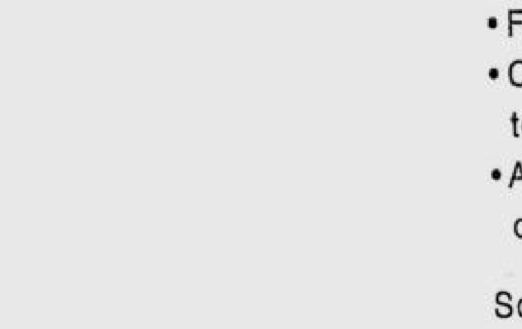

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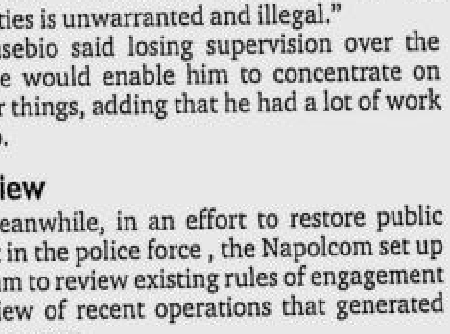

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Red Bull gets going vs San Mig

WINNING A CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE PREVIOUS conference builds enormous pressure on Red Bull to clinch another.

Thus the Bulls will understandably dread the spotlight today when they take on San Miguel Beermen the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

"It's a natural thing for people to notice us after winning a championship," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, fresh from steering the Bulls to the 2006 Fiesta Conference title over the Purefoods Chunkee Giants.

"All eyes will certainly be on us."

While focus will be on how the Bulls can maintain their championship fire, the team's Ateneo connection—sealed with the acquisition of Rich Alvarez from Alaska—provides an added attraction in the 7:35 p.m. match.

STANDINGS	W	L
Coca-Cola	1	0
Alaska	1	0
Purefoods	1	0
Ginebra	1	0
Air21	0	1
San Miguel	0	1
Sta. Lucia	0	1
Talk 'N Text	0	1
Red Bull	x	x

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:40 p.m.—Alaska vs Coca-Cola
7:35 p.m.—San Miguel vs Red Bull

GINEBRA'S Rommel Adducul (left) disputes the rebound with Talk 'N Text's Asi Taulava in Wednesday's game won by the Gin Kings, 98-81. RYAN LIM

Alvarez joins Enrico Villanueva, Paolo Bugia and Larry Fonacier, the core of the Blue Eagles' 2002 UAAP championship squad, together with LA Tenorio and Wesley Gonzales.

Playing with limited minutes for Alaska, Alvarez could again spread his wings under the Bulls' system.

"I'm used to playing with these guys (Ateneo teammates) and the good thing about it is we always watch each other's back," said Alvarez, the league's 2005 rookie of the year.

Meanwhile, the Beermen are expected to atone for their conference-opening debacle against the Aces. Brandon Cablay had a forgettable debut for San Miguel, scoring only three points in 28 minutes.

Cablay was shipped by the Aces in exchange for Nic Belasco, who got back at his former team with a game-high 30 points in 33 minutes.

"He will not score every night but he'll be an important factor for us," said Alaska coach Tim Cone. "He's thrilled at this point and the triangle is there to explore his game."

Cone and the Aces tangle with the Coca-Cola Tigers earlier at 4:40 p.m.

"Coke is very hungry and the only way to go for them is up," said Cone. "The rivalry of the trade will make it interesting."

The Aces swapped John Arigo and Ali Peek for Jeffrey Cariaso and Reynel Hugnatan more than a year ago.

Arigo and Peek led Coca-Cola to victory over Air21 on opening day.

"We lost to them (Aces) by a wide margin during our tune-up game," said Coca-Cola coach Binky Favis. "It will ease off the pressure if we can return the favor." *June Navarro*

2 games up as NBC caging begins today

GAMES TODAY
(Tagaytay Sports Center)
1 p.m.—Bacchus/Harbour Centre vs Spring-Parañaque
3 p.m.—Opening Ceremony
3:30 p.m.—Tagaytay vs Pangasinan

TAGAYTAY CITY—THE NATIONAL Basketball Conference (NBC) opens its third season today with a doubleheader at the Tagaytay Sports Center here.

Host Batang Tagaytay of NBC executive vice president and Mayor Bambol Tolentino goes up against Pangasinan Hundred Islands at 3:30 p.m. after the 1 p.m. opener pitting Spring Cooking Oil-Parañaque of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana against Bacchus/Harbour Centre Manila of Coach Lawrence Chongson and Mikee Romero.

Cavite Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi will be guest speaker during the 3 p.m. opening ceremony of the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring, Firefly Electric, Spring Cooking Oil, Molten and Prime Channel.

"The opening rites will showcase the local talents of Tagaytay," said Mayor Tolentino. "We're expecting our home crowd to support us in our first game (in the league) since we'll be up against a strong team in Pangasinan."

Mentored by veteran Jun da Jose, Pangasinan boasts league veterans like Efren Valdez, Melvin Fontanilla, Ryan Ico, Jason Tiongson, Randy Lopez, Melvin Mamaclay, Jovy Sese, Steve Marucot,

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Bigger field, more action to mark 5th Asian F3 season

ASIAN FORMULA THREE BRACES FOR ITS fifth season this year with new cars and a bigger field competing in an expanded circuit that guarantees exciting battles for the overall drivers' championship and other titles at stake.

Instead of the usual two rounds per leg, drivers will now battle it out in three races per stop, the most significant change organizers have made since the AF3 hit the racing scene in 2002, to further test the skills of the competitors and teams.

Six legs make up this year's circuit, beginning with the opening three rounds on May 6-7 at the Batangas Racing Circuit, where Ananda Mikola of Indonesia stamped his class last year to win the overall individual crown.

The circuit will also hold stops in China and Indonesia, with the Zhuhai International Circuit in Guangdong province hosting the next two legs on June 3-4 and July 15-16. Indonesia's Sentul International Circuit hosts the fourth and fifth legs on Aug. 19-20 and Sept. 23-24. The races wind up on Nov. 4-5 in Batangas.

In all, drivers will compete in 18 races, six more than last year's number.

At least eight speedy Dallara 304 cars, compared to just two last year, will be fielded by various teams this time, while foreign drivers from Brazil, Ireland, Japan and Indonesia will join Filipino entries led by Dado Peña and Tyson Sy.

"The level of interest in the series is extremely high," said AF3 Corp. chair Ed Peña, adding the starting grid will be bigger than last year.

"The drivers and spectators will have the benefit of an additional race. We believe AF3 represents incredible value for money and this will be further improved with an 18-race series.

"Our (AF3) aim is to ensure that there is a structured path to the top for Asian race drivers."

Mikola, along with 2004 champion Christian Jones of Australia and Irishman John O'Hara will be back, although they are not guaranteed to see action in all the races.

Organizers have also lined up more promotional activities designed to liven up the races that will be aired live on television and radio and also on www.asianf3.net and www.pldtmypad.net.

For starters, a first-ever street drive at the Luneta Park is on the drawing board.

PEÑA: 18-race series

Paragua asserts supremacy in La Union chess

SAN FERNANDO CITY, LA UNION—GRANDmaster Mark Paragua lived up to his billing as the country's foremost player by downing International Master Ronald Dableo and ruling the 5th La Union Open chess championship here Thursday.

The highest-rated Filipino player in history with an Elo rating of 2618, Paragua secured the P80,000 champion's purse by beating Dableo in 40 moves of a Sicilian at the back end of their two-game titular series at the Diego Silang Hall of the La Union provincial capitol building.

Paragua and Dableo, who pocketed P40,000, halved the point in Game 1 after 27 moves of an English Opening.

"I really tried hard to win so my draw with the black pieces wouldn't go for naught," said Paragua in Filipino.

On his way to the finals, the 21-year-old veteran of the last two Olympiads outplayed National Master Manny Senador, Fide Master Oliver Dimakiling and last year's champion Grandmaster Joey Antonio, who settled for fourth this time.

Only Dimakiling managed to push Paragua to the limit before bowing in a sudden-death playoff. The rest failed to make it past the two-game regulation.

"It's really hard to beat Mark when he's in peak form," said Dableo in Filipino. "At least I lost to our best player."

Paragua and Dableo, the 2003 Asian Zonal champion, are enlisted personnel of the Philippine Air Force under Maj. Jaime Viernes, Col. Oscar Rabena and group commander Col. Alejandro Camagay.

IM Richard Bitoon took third place with a 1.5-.5 victory over an uninspired Antonio. Bitoon downed Antonio in 45 moves of a Caro Kann Defense in Game 1 and then forced a draw in Game 2 to earn P30,000.

Paragua is being supported by Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, Filway Marketing president/CEO Hector Tagaysay and Moldex Realty Inc.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

IN-FORM: GM Mark Paragua proves hard to beat. JUNJIE MENDOZA

Nat'l bowlers twit PSC over monthly pay delay

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE NATIONAL BOWLERS, AMONG THE WELL-off athletes in the Philippine team, are complaining over the delay in the release of their allowances from the Philippine Sports Commission.

Led by ladies team captain Jojo Cañare, the bowlers said they received their allowance for January only last month.

"Our NSA (Philippine Bowling Congress) is consistent in submitting our attendance to the PSC, but each time they inquire with the PSC, they say there are no vouchers yet," said Cañare, part of the silver medal-winning ladies team in the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The national athletes, depending on their ranking, get monthly stipends from the PSC plus P3,0000 in meal allowances.

But PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez denied the bowlers' claim, saying the agency has not been remiss in giving stipend and meal allowances to the athletes.

"There is no reason to delay these allowances because there are no foreign trips scheduled yet," Ramirez told the INQUIRER.

He said the PSC hands out allowances directly to the athletes and that the delay had nothing to do with the Philippine Bowling Congress' problem on its liquidation of cash advances.

Annie Ruiz, head of the PSC-NSA affairs, admitted that the release of the allowances was slightly delayed. She said stipends for February are now being processed.

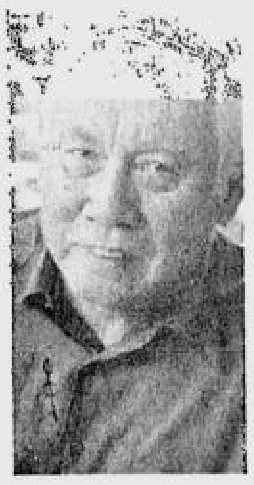
Ramirez said there could be a slight confusion in the processing of the athletes' allowances because their payroll ranking was affected by their performances in the SEAG.

Cañare said they also thought of seeking the help of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"They (her fellow bowlers) are asking me what is happening," said Canare, a Class B athlete, who gets P6,000 monthly.

"Not all bowlers are well-off, some of us depend only on the money we get from the PSC."

Laguna FA wants detail of PFF expenses



ROMUALDEZ

By Musong R. Castillo

LAGUNA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT Jun Pacificador is asking the Philippine Football Federation (PFF) leadership to explain in detail the huge expenses incurred by the PFF last year.

The PFF spent P4.2 million in administration expenses for last year alone, and more than P14 million since 2003, in a report presented by PFF president Johnny Romualdez during the last football congress in Iloilo late last month.

A copy of the report was given to the INQUIRER by Pacificador, who said the huge expenditure runs counter to the "spirit of volunteerism" needed to serve in a National Sports Association.

Pacificador, a math professor at De La Salle University, admitted to having called for a vote to oust Romualdez during the congress, but got nowhere when the president hid "behind the constitution of the PFF and refused to discuss issues hurled against him."

Pacificador had circulated a position paper before the start of the congress that pointed to at least four reasons why Romualdez should step down. The accusations ranged from "disregarding the spirit of fair play" to being "dictatorial and negligent in running the affairs of the PFF."

Romualdez, meanwhile, said that "anyone can come to the (PFF) office and get the details (of the expenses)." He denied having promised the FA heads a detailed explanation and said the report, as far as he knew, was furnished to everyone one month before the congress.

"The administration expenses are not all spent on salaries," Romualdez added. "We also spent for communication, meeting expenses, etc."

Romualdez said he does not receive anything from the PFF that would qualify as a salary.

First Gent should not abandon the athletes

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT IS HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE THAT IN these unhappy times of dwindling budget for Philippine sports, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo would be so perplexed as to shirk his duty to the cash-strapped Filipino athletes by abandoning his fund-raising scheme to help the country's campaign in this year's Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

Mr. Arroyo should not walk away from his involvement in sports. Recall that last year he did a commendable job of raising about P160 million to help finance the training of the Philippine delegation that won, for the first time, the overall championship of the Southeast Asian Games. He will forever be remembered for that.

While it is true that the First Gentleman was booed—in local cinemas—when he appeared atop the ring (with Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson) shortly after Filipino boxing hero Manny Pacquiao stopped Mexico's Erik Morales in Las Vegas last January, such was not the case when, with his big help, the Philippines emerged victorious in the 23rd SEA Games.

With the Doha Asian Games only nine months away, the stone-broke Philippine sports needs a patron like him, a knight in shining armor sort of, especially after a measly budget of P28 million has been proposed in Congress for the Philippine Sports Commission. In the 2002 Asian Games held in Busan, South Korea, the Philippines won three gold medals courtesy of the men's 9-ball doubles team of Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Antonio "Nickoy" Lining in billiards, the men's doubles team of Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista in bowling, and equestrian entry Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski in show jumping.

"We need more support from the private sector to boost our campaign in the Asian Games," said former Rep. Harry Angpin of the softball association. "These private firms keep us going."

On the other hand, athletics president and Philippine Asian Games Task Force head Go Teng Kok said the Philippine Olympic Committee is set to conduct fund-raising projects, as well as adopt cost-cutting measures, aimed at helping the Philippine contingent to the Doha Games. Back from Doha last week, Go (together with POC administrative officer Moying Martelino) said the Asiad organizers are giving free board and lodging to all bona fide members of the Philippine delegation during their stay in Doha, thus "saving us a lot of money."

* * *

BITS AND PIECES: Former POC president Col. Julian Malonso (ret.) is at it again. In a press statement, the ageless Malonso said: "Politicians should not hold positions in the national sports associations. Sports is used by politicians for their political mileage." He also stressed that sending athletes for training in foreign countries is short-lived... With a banner cast of 95 couples seeing action, the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines will mark its 10th anniversary by staging the 2006 DSCP 1st Quarter Ranking and Competition at the PhilSports Arena starting at 11 a.m. tomorrow. To ensure fair officiating, council president Becky Garcia said five international licensed judges from abroad will adjudicate the tournament sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Petron BPI-Mastercard, PCSO, Philippine Sports Commission, Joey 92.3 Rhythm, POC, Pagcor, Water Zone, Savannah Moon and Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. For ticket inquiries, call Anafaye Lee at 635-0116... San Pablo City will be one of the out-of-town venues of the popular Milo Best Center summer basketball clinic on May 22-27 at the LSPC (Trade School) in Laguna. Aimed at getting the youngsters into sports and keeping them away from drugs and other vices during their vacation, Best Center has produced many of the country's leading amateur and professional players. For details, call BJ Cuello at (049) 246-5377, (049) 800-3015 and 0921-571-4355, or Best coaching staff member Manu Iñigo at 0915-590-5940. Classes will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon... I have no doubt that the horse to watch in the Philracom Stakes Race at the Sta. Ana Park on Sunday is the fast-striding Real Spicy owned by businessman-sportsman Hermie Esguerra. One of the country's winningest horses, Real Spicy is a four-year-old chestnut son of Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale.

SPORTSWATCH

Women in Sports tour visits DLSU

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY WELCOMES THE WOMEN IN SPORTS 2006 CAMpus tour of the Philippine Sports Commission at 12:15 p.m. tomorrow. The theme of the visit is Breaking Barriers: Rewards of Young Women's Involvement in Sports. Former University of the Philippines human kinetics professor Lydia Buendia and RP traditional boat race women's team captain Geraldine Bernardo will share their personal experiences in the sporting arena. International Labor Organization deputy director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific Keiko Nimii will also be on hand to discuss the ILO's focus on women in sports and its collaboration with the PSC for this year's celebration of Women's Month.

Golden Sunset-FVR Cup reset March 24

THE FIRST GOLDEN SUNSET-FVR CUP INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT, originally slated for today, was moved to March 24 at the Calatagan Golf Club in Calatagan, Batangas. A bus, which leaves at 7 p.m. for Calatagan, will be available in front of the National Press Club in Intramuros on March 23. For inquiries, call Ira or Jena at 0917-8974234 or 724-5672.

70 fights in Pasay cockfest today

SEVENTY FIGHTS ARE ON TAP IN A BIG 4-COCK DERBY TODAY AT THE PASAY City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. A cash pot of P300,000 await the winners of this one-day contest hosted by J. Diokno and RCD Group. Diokno has invited participants from groups like PCCA, PCAP and GCAP, according to pit manager Eric dela Rosa. Three more 4-cockers are scheduled at the venue: March 17, hosted by the PCCA; March 24 (Boy Layag and Maj. Bobby Doromal) and March 31 (Tony Lasala). For inquiries, call 843-1890 or 843-1746.

CHERIFER
PGM 10-22

LAST QUALIFIER: Marist School coaches Jerome Maramang and Manuel Cuevas give their 12-under dribblers a pep-talk en route to clinching the last ticket to the National Finals of the Cherifer Tangkad Sagad Basketball Tournament in Antipolo recently. Marist School joins San Beda-Manila, Imus Pilot School-Cavite and St. Scholastica Academy-Pampanga in the Cherifer hoopfest supported by Adidas.

Banquiles, Alcala head top junior shuttlers' bid

JAN BANQUILES AND MALVINNE Ann Venice Alcala spearhead the bid of the fancied bets when the JVC Open Juniors Championships kick off its third staging on March 25-26 at SM Megamall.

Banquiles and Alcala won the boys and girls' 10-and-under singles and doubles crowns in last year's tourney. A 12-under class has been added to the tournament as part of JVC (Phils.) Inc.'s effort to expand the base of its junior program.

To accommodate the big number of entries, the organizing IMG will hold a series of qualifiers from March 21-24 at PowerSmash. Registration is free. Deadline for submission of entries is on March 15.

For details, log on to www.jvcbadminton.com or email at jvcbadminton@hotmail.com.

2 games up as NBC...

From page A21

James Zablan, Rey Paul Javier, Mike Dizon and Michael Gonzales and rookie Ryan Regalado.

But coach Ramir Bayot, a former MICAA and PBA player, is confident that Tagaytay will be able to give a good fight.

Tagaytay will be bannered by Rodel Mallari, Paolo Malonzo, Joel Pinuliar, MicDonald Santos, Arden Guiyab, rookie Tito Reyes, Rey Ober, Ian Pellejera, Gian Carlo Yabut, Eric Larica, Ian Bayot, Don Mordeno, Nelson Genido and Maurice Lascana.

Bacchus/Harbour will pin its hopes on Nani Epondulan, Britt Remora, Magnum Membrere and Jay-R Aquino.

Spring-Parañaque is leaning on Rodel Mallari, Danny Capobres, Mar Reyes and off-season recruits Harold Sta. Cruz, Patrick Tiongco, Ariel de Castro and Marvin Yambao.

The opening rites and the Tagaytay-Pangasinan match will be aired at 9:30 p.m. tomorrow over Prime Channel.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Ort/Tri)—Screaming Eagle (1), C'est Moi (6), Just Joshua (4), American Idol (2)

Race 2—(Ort/Tri)—Something Silver (4), La Española (5), Sir Lawrence (6), Ocean Dignity (3)

Race 3—(Ort/Tri)—Boxster (8), Joker (2), Crystal City/Michaela Mia (9), Astig (1)

Race 4—(Penta/Tri)—Playmaker (6), Tiger Rally (11), Black Pearl (14), Humble Quest (10), [illegible] (7)

Race 5—(Ort/Tri)—Batang Westside (5), Manila Magic (3), Modern Spirit (2), Luck of the Irish (4)

Race 6—(Penta/Tri)—Dixie Dash/The Dominator (9), Tell Henry (4), Simply Gold (10), Jaw Breaker (6), The Magician (11)

Race 7—(Ort/Tri)—Sweet Talk (3), Distinctive Dancer (4), Vitality (2), Key Element (1)

Race 8—(Penta/Tri)—God Is Good (6), Ole!Ole!Ole! (9), Bold Lucky (7), Valentine Girl (1), Power of Longevity (4)

Race 9—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—Gelay's Charm (8), Cool Turner (1), Anytime Anywhere (11), Ingay Ingay (9), Skip Away (4), Hale and Hearty (5)

Fiery Kobe ruins Hornets homecoming

NEW YORK—KOBE BRYANT POURED IN 40 points as the Los Angeles Lakers eased to a 113-107 win over New Orleans on Wednesday, spoiling the Hornets' homecoming to the hurricane-battered Big Easy.

A standing room only crowd of more than 17,000 welcomed the Hornets back to the rebuilt New Orleans Arena and cheered their team throughout the entire contest, the first professional sporting event staged in the city since Hurricane Katrina roared ashore last August leaving behind widespread devastation.

Since being forced from their home, the Hornets, like many of the city's residents, have found shelter elsewhere taking up temporary residence in Oklahoma City.

With basketball back in the Big Easy, Bryant put on a show scoring 18 of his points in the decisive fourth quarter while going 14-of-16 from the free throw line.

Lamar Odom contributed 18 points and 17 rebounds to the Los Angeles cause while Smush Parker helped out with 16 points and seven assists as the Lakers notched their third win in four games.

David West led the Hornets with 25 with Chris Paul and Speedy Claxton each chipping in with 22.

Leading 93-88 midway through the final quarter, it had appeared the Hornets' homecoming might be a winning one until Bryant went to work.

But the Hornets made sure the night would be an entertaining one pulling to within 102-101 with 90 seconds to play.

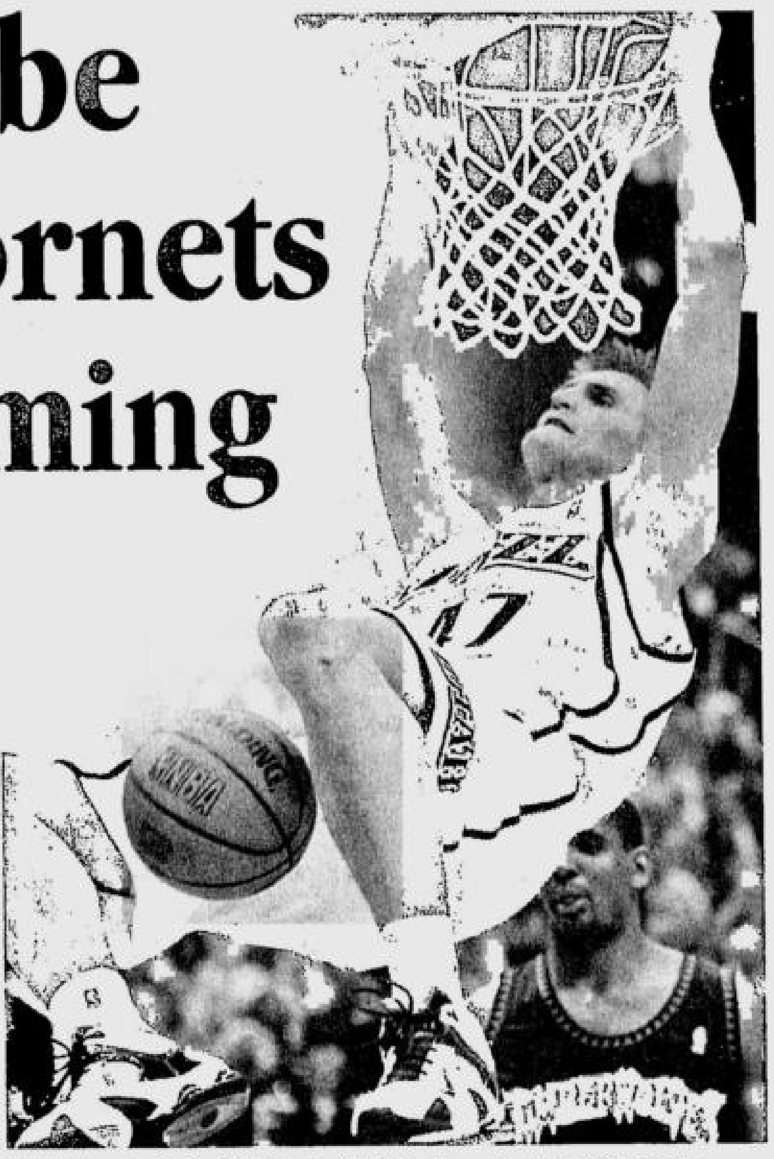
Any hope of a win, however, disappeared in a Lakers 8-0 run to put the contest out of reach.

In Miami, Dwayne Wade returned from injury to score a game-high 40 points leading the red-hot Heat to a 118-112 decision over the Washington Wizards and their 10th straight win.

Jason Williams contributed 21 points to the Heat total while Shaquille O'Neal had 19 and 11 rebounds. *Reuters*

COMPLETE RESULTS: Cleveland 98, Toronto 97; Detroit 106, Chicago 101; Charlotte 104, Golden State 101; Boston 104, Philadelphia 101; Miami 118, Washington 112; LA Lakers 113, N.O./ Oklahoma City 107; Sacramento 123, Milwaukee 116; Houston 103, Indiana 99; Utah 96, Minnesota 93; Memphis 99, Seattle 74.

SOLAR Sports will air the Denver-Philadelphia tussle at 9 a.m. today with a replay at 8 p.m.



UTAH Jazz's Andrei Kirilenko (47) dunks against the Minnesota Timberwolves in Salt Lake City. AP

Canada shames US batters at own turf

PHOENIX, ARIZONA—A CANADIAN LINEUP of prospects and little-known major leaguers stunned the United States, 8-6, here Wednesday in a World Baseball Classic shocker that humbled a star-studded American squad.

In a baseball version of the "Miracle on Ice" 1980 US Olympic hockey upset of the Soviet Union, Canada's "Miracle on Grass" featured American fans booing their team after it fell behind 8-0 after 4 1/2 innings.

"It's the best win in Canada's history, no question. They are a powerhouse team," Canadian manager Ernie Whitt said.

"We don't have the depth a lot of other countries do, but we have a lot of heart. I don't know if it's the hockey mentality or what. They never quit. That makes me proud."

The favored American millionaire lineup could be eliminated on tie-breakers from the first global showdown featuring Major League Baseball talent before Friday's Pool B game against South Africa.

"It was very much disappointment," US manager Buck Martinez said. "It's a very quiet locker room right now. Everybody feels like they got kicked in the stomach. They have a lot of pride. It's a tough feeling right now."

Baseball's birthplace saw big names back out of the Classic for fear of injury or desire to prepare for April's start of the club season. In a sport that is the American national pastime, the humiliation in defeat was complete.

"I don't know that there is such a thing as an embarrassment," Martinez said. "There are quite a few teams that can beat anybody in this tournament."

Canada's Adam Stern went 3-for-4, drove in four runs and made a leaping catch to keep the US squad from tying the score in the eighth inning. *AFP*

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WE CONVERT YOUR XL, XT XTO INTO XUV
TOYOTA REVO VX 200 & SR CONVERSION PACKAGE DEAL P18,000.00
PACKAGE DEAL!!! WRAP AROUND STAINLESS BULL BARS P18,000 only (FRONT, SIDE, REAR)
WE ACCEPT MADE TO ORDER CUSTOMIZE BULLBARS BULLBAR REPAIR TO SUIT YOUR STYLE
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Tierro gains India q'finals

FILIPINO DAVIS CUPPER PATRICK John Tierro shocked third seed Manuel Jorquera of Italy, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, yesterday and entered the quarterfinals of the India Association of Tennis Professionals/International Tennis Federation Satellite Circuit.

TIERRO

Tierro, who beat local bet Vardhan Vishnu in the first round, was cruising to victory at 3-1 and 40-0 in the fifth game of the second set when the Italian, ranked No. 600 in the world, regained his touch from the baseline.

But Tierro kept his composure, breaking Joguera's serve at 2-all then won the last four games. He closed the match with a service winner.

Tierro, who has already qualified to next week's $25,000 New Delhi Masters reserved for the Circuit's top 24 earners, will try to make the semis against another Italian ace and fifth seed Federico Torresi.

Playing brilliantly, Torresi showed the door to top seed and world No. 373 Alexey Kedriouk of Kazhakstan, 6-4, 7-5.

In an overseas call, Tierro, playing under the sponsorship of sportsman Jean Henri Lhuillier of the Lhuillier Group of Companies the last two years, and supported by Philta, credited his serve for the victory.

"My serve has become better and more dependable now. I also improved my backhand returns," said Tierro. "Now I could attack more and not get tired. My weeks of technical training in Subic and the plyometric program helped me add more dimensions to my game. I'm having more fun playing now."

Tierro is expected to see action in 25 international events this year. *Dennis U. Eroa*

P. Princesa Off-Road Challenge begins

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY WILL PLAY HOST to a two-in-one 4x4 Off-Road Challenge and Scooter Time Trials as part of the festivities for the 2nd Balayong Festival at the Sta. Monica Raceway today and tomorrow.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn has brought MP Turbo's Ultimate Speedfest Championship over to stage the twin events as part of the month-long celebration of Puerto Princesa's Foundation day last March 4.

"We are very happy that Puerto Princesa, through Mayor Edward Hagedorn, has agreed to host the first round of our series," said Mike Potenciano, MP Turbo's chief organizer and veteran racer.

The 2006 Balayong Festival 4x4 Challenge is presented by Puerto Princesa City, Oplan head Ms Ellen Hagedorn, City Administrator lawyer Augustin Rocamora, Councilor Mark Hagedorn and City Sports head Noli Hitosis. Additional support was provided by Superferry, Honda Motorcycles, Honda Prestige, GSM Blue, Red Horse Beer and GCG Pipes.

The event will be covered by SPEED TV and shown on ABC 5 every Monday, 4:30 p.m. with replays in Prime Channel and international viewing through the Pinoy TV of ABS-CBN Global Network.

For details, call MP Turbo at 0919-4921575 or email at mpturbo@mydestiny.net

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines

Procurement of Assorted Information Technology Equipment

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Commission on Audit, intends to apply the sum of Eleven Million Eight Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Forty Five pesos (Php 11,833,045.00) broken down as follows:

ITEM	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	SUB-ABC
Lot 1	PC and Appurtenances, Branded	6,228,315.00
Lot 2	Printers and Scanners, Branded	4,344,230.00
Lot 3	Multi-Media Projectors and Accessories	1,260,500.00
	Total ABC	Php 11,833,045.00

being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Assorted IT Equipment. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the Bid opening.

2. Interested Bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting March 13 to April 3, 2006, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Seven Thousand pesos (Php 7,000.00) from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Ms. Lita E. Diez, Procurement Division, COA, Central Office, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.
3. The Commission on Audit will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 20, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the BAC Office, Room 102, Ground Floor, former SAADO Building, COA Complex, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.
4. Deadline for the submission of Bids shall be on April 3, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the BAC Office, Room 102, Ground Floor former SAADO Building, COA Complex, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
5. The Bids and Awards Committee of the Commission on Audit reserves the right to reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

(Sgd.) AsCom. ARCADIO B. CUENCO, JR.
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – March 10, 2006)

All-Filipino s'finals up as Mantua, Rubillar win

CHIEMEL MANTUA OF PAGADIAN CITY rallied past Japanese Naoki Miyake, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, and Davao City's Dodong Rubillar survived Masaya Taira, 6-2, 7-6 (7-2), to complete the semifinal cast in the 2006 Kobe Gakuin Cup Invitational Tennis tournament at the Ayala Alabang Tennis Club.

Mantua will meet Elbert Anasta while Rubillar battles national player Johnny Arcilla in the semifinal round scheduled late this afternoon. Anasta defeated Fuyuki Ogawa, 6-3, 6-1, while Arcilla downed Masaki Kawazu,. 6-1, 7-5, in the other quarterfinal pairings.

Earlier, Kawazu bounced back to beat national coach Rolando Ruel Jr., 6-7 (5), 7-5, 7-6 (3); Rocky Paglalunan subdued Junpei Okabe, 6-3, 6-2, Jaime Solon downed Shohei Maruyama, 7-6 (2), 6-2, and Gilbert Estrada outlasted Junpei Okabe, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

The champion in this five-day event supported by tennis patron Romy Chan will receive P20,000 and the runner-up P10,000.

Meanwhile, the Kobe Gakuin University team defeated University of the Philippines, 8-1; NCAA Selection, 7-2; and the UAAP selection, 8-1, in dual matches held last weekend.

WW-Malarayat provisional Corporate Cup pacesetter

BAGUIO CITY—WACK WACK-MALARAYAT drew a couple of 50 points from Dong Mendoza and Gerald Katigbak to emerge as provisional Group I leader in the 18th Philippine Corporate Cup at the Camp John Hay Golf Club course here.

Together with the 47 points of Emil Alviar, the Wack Wack-Malarayat squad totaled 147 for the day and 296 for two days to lead by 16 points over Matikas' 83 (147-280), with 12 teams still to complete their final rounds yesterday.

Le Chef looms as the biggest threat to Wack-Wack-Malarayat as Fred Puckett shot a tournament-best 54, Goody Ignacio made 53 and Ben Liclican added 48 for a first-round 155. Le Chef needs just 142 points to clinch the crown.

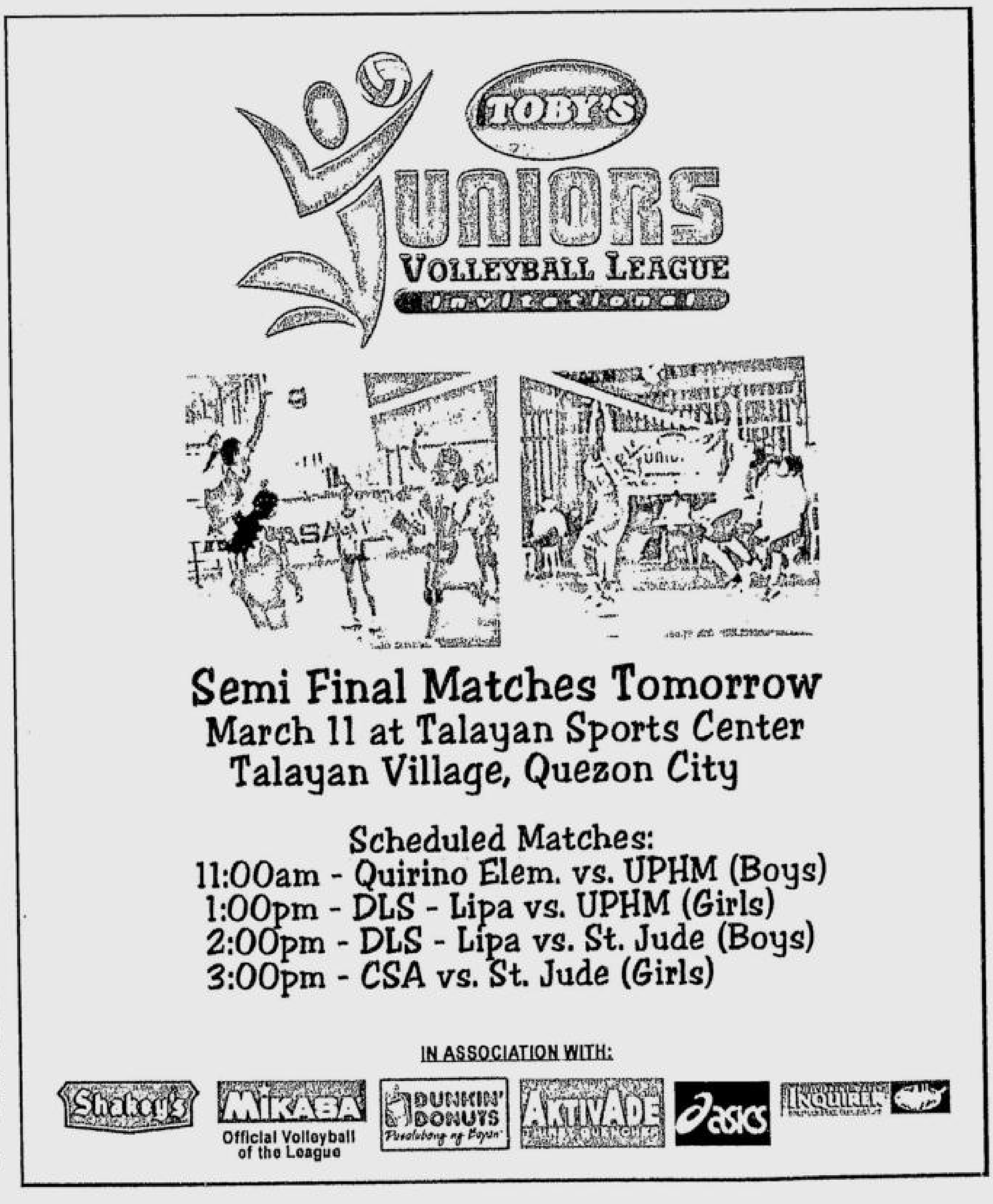
Also in contention for the Group I title were Camp John Hay Development Corp., which stood at 148 after getting 52s from Jimmy Borromeo and Shean Bedi, as well as Nueva Ecija and Crystal Dew with similar 146 aggregates.

The tourney enjoys major backing from Camp John Hay Manor, Camp John Hay Golf Club, Camp John Hay Dev't Corp., Club Leisure Management Corp., Golforce, Information Professionals Inc., MRT, Le Chef and Wilson. Figaro, Hotshots, Strawberries and Flavors Ice Cream and Pizza Hut are minor sponsors.

Club Marinduque was the runaway leader by 24 over Advanced Medical Systems B in Group II with 141-272; Techsafe Inc. (116-231) was ahead by 19 over Corinthians 1440 in Group III; Manila East Medical Center (76-143) led BASF 1 by 10 in Group IV; and Powerlux (119-225) paced the seniors division.

Individual leaders were Jeck Mendoza, Ronald Dizon and Gerald Katigbak all at 103 in Group I, Alex Ignacio of Matikas (93) in Group II, Sharyn Hudson of Brewyard and June Hwang of Zamboanga 2 with 81s in Group III, Rey Valdez of Wack Wack-Malarayat (85) in Group IV and Fred Carandang of Powerlux (82) in seniors play.

A total of 274 teams are seeing action in the biggest ever staging of the tournament.



TOBY'S
JUNIORS
VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE
invitational

Semi Final Matches Tomorrow
March 11 at Talayan Sports Center
Talayan Village, Quezon City

Scheduled Matches:
11:00am - Quirino Elem. vs. UPHM (Boys)
1:00pm - DLS - Lipa vs. UPHM (Girls)
2:00pm - DLS - Lipa vs. St. Jude (Boys)
3:00pm - CSA vs. St. Jude (Girls)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH:
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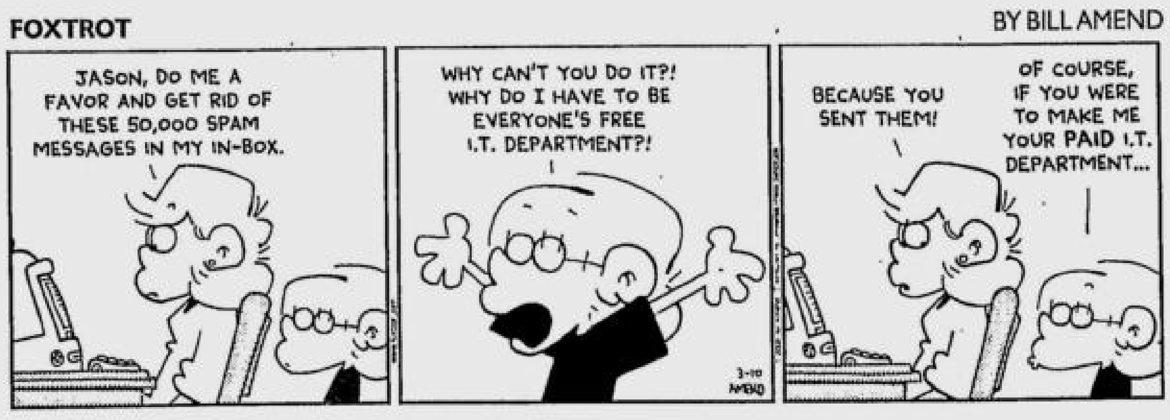
INQUIRER

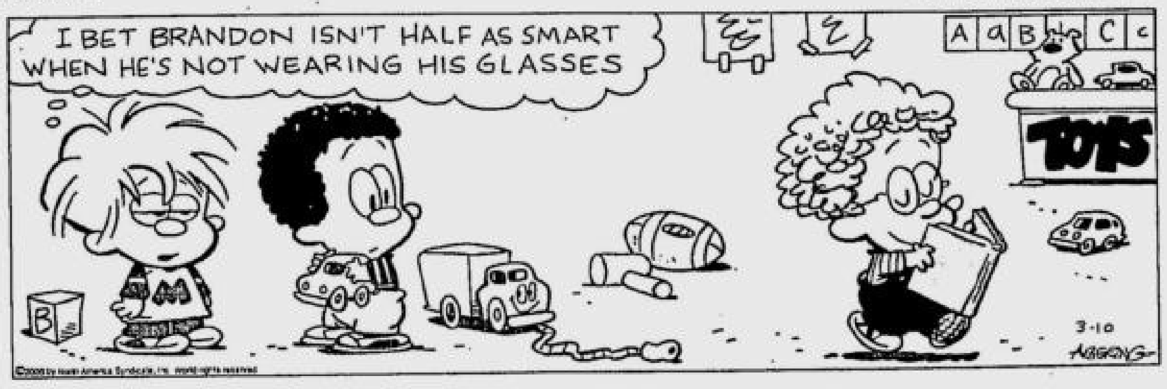
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


JASON, DO ME A FAVOR AND GET RID OF THESE 50,000 SPAM MESSAGES IN MY IN-BOX.
WHY CAN'T YOU DO IT?! WHY DO I HAVE TO BE EVERYONE'S FREE I.T. DEPARTMENT?!
BECAUSE YOU SENT THEM!
OF COURSE, IF YOU WERE TO MAKE ME YOUR PAID I.T. DEPARTMENT...
3-10
AMEND

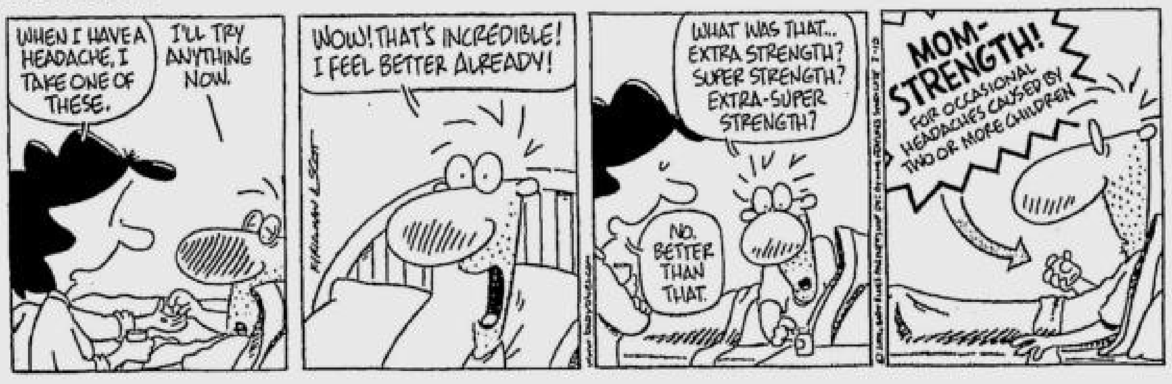
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I BET BRANDON ISN'T HALF AS SMART WHEN HE'S NOT WEARING HIS GLASSES
TOYS
3-10
ARMSTRONG

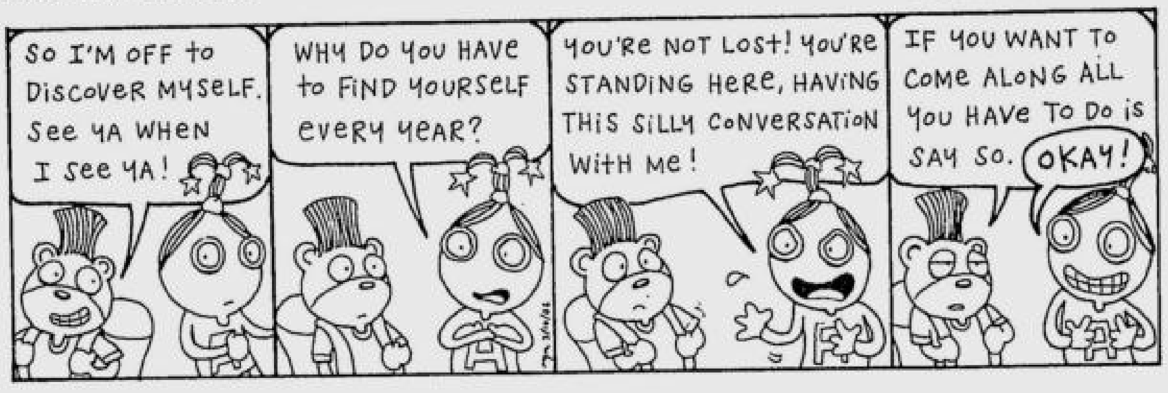
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHEN I HAVE A HEADACHE, I TAKE ONE OF THESE.
I'LL TRY ANYTHING NOW.
WOW! THAT'S INCREDIBLE! I FEEL BETTER ALREADY!
WHAT WAS THAT... EXTRA STRENGTH? SUPER STRENGTH? EXTRA-SUPER STRENGTH?
NO. BETTER THAN THAT.
MOM-STRENGTH! FOR OCCASIONAL HEADACHES CAUSED BY TWO OR MORE CHILDREN

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SO I'M OFF TO DISCOVER MYSELF. SEE YA WHEN I SEE YA!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO FIND YOURSELF EVERY YEAR?
YOU'RE NOT LOST! YOU'RE STANDING HERE, HAVING THIS SILLY CONVERSATION WITH ME!
IF YOU WANT TO COME ALONG ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SAY SO.
OKAY!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are sensitive, and you have deep emotions. This makes you very sympathetic toward others. Your experiences in life make you compassionate; others respect you for this. You appreciate beauty and the arts, especially the art of other cultures. This year you will be faced with an important choice, but you will know what to do.

Birthdate of: Chuck Norris, actor; Eric Berne, writer; Sharon Stone, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't be worried if others are critical of your creative talents. What do they really know? Nobody ever bought Van Gogh's paintings while he was alive. Just believe in yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Relations with authority figures and parents are bit strained today. People are afraid to say what they really think. Don't worry about this. It's not a big deal.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might feel resentful that somebody has something or is successful in some way. This is a human trait, but it serves no purpose. Other people's good fortune doesn't mean you're a loser.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're quite conservative with your finances today. Suddenly, you feel worried about limited resources. Just be fair in all your dealings with others.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You'll be better off if you put little pleasures aside and work hard today. Yesterday was the day to play, not today. Just focus on your duties and obligations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You can accomplish a lot at work today because you're willing to put your nose to the proverbial grindstone. You don't mind doing something that is boring and routine. You just want to get the job done.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Children might feel like an obligation today. By definition, children are obligations! And you were once an obligation yourself. (This just goes with the territory.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Things at home might feel a bit lackluster today. You could feel moody. Don't take these feelings seriously; they will pass in a day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might feel like you're the only one in the room not having fun today. But that isn't true. Everybody feels a bit reserved and nervous today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): If you have financial business today, you will be very aware of details, rules and regulations. You have mouse mind today, not eagle mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You don't have to pretend to feel anything you don't feel. It's appropriate to pull in your energy today and just be by yourself. You want to hang on to your money!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your best bet today is to do hard work. Others are not in a jovial, playful mood. Therefore, expect very little, and just tackle whatever is at hand.

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14					■	15				■	16			
17					18					■	19			
20						■	21			22				
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66				■	67				■	68				
69				■	70				■	71				

By John Underwood
New York, NY

3/10/06

ACROSS
1 Ionian Island
6 Tube watcher?
10 Some HDTVs
14 States forcefully
15 Back then
16 River of NYC
17 Like transistors
19 Small combo
20 O.T. prophet
21 1966 Simon & Garfunkel hit
23 Buddhist sect
24 Anti-missile strategy
26 Actress Turner
28 Sp. miss
29 Anterior appendage
33 Trounce
37 "Iron John" author
38 Hint to puzzle's theme
42 Spanish gold
43 Picked from a lineup
45 Asian evergreen
47 Apple product
51 Head of France?
52 Exploited juveniles
56 Harnessed pair
60 Friendless
61 Parking structure
63 Calla lily
64 Branch of particle physics
66 Disfigure
67 Henry Gray subj.
68 Composer Erik
69 Anti-fur org.
70 Male offspring
71 King Arthur's father

DOWN
1 Court docket
2 Convex molding
3 Kindled anew
4 Southwestern bean
5 Govt. farm group
6 Sci. class
7 Studio sign
8 Eightsomes
9 BMW, to some
10 Used tire
11 Leslie of "Gigi"
12 Sports shoes brand
13 Use a poker
18 Country Twain
22 Back position
25 Poetic measure
27 Fermented liquid: abbr.
29 J. Edgar Hoover's org.
30 Aged
31 Seeded purchase
32 Tiny amount
34 French king
35 Coffee vessel
36 Weightlifter's pride, slangily
39 European defense assn.
40 Come into focus
41 Make lace
44 Quandary
46 Withdraw
48 "ER" extras
49 Hilo farewells
50 Spanish road
52 Part of a vise
53 Goddesses of the seasons
54 North Slope dweller
55 Set in motion
57 Solid ground
58 Texas A&M student
59 "The Monk's Wedding" writer
62 Korean apricot
65 Washington in NYC

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

L	O	G	O	S	■	S	E	W	E	R	■	A	R	A
E	L	O	P	E	■	O	C	A	L	A	■	M	E	G
N	E	V	E	R	F	O	L	L	O	W	■	O	N	E
■	■	■	R	E	A	T	A	S	■	■	A	R	O	N
E	R	R	A	N	D	■	T	H	E	C	R	O	W	D
C	H	I	N	E	S	E	■	■	L	A	G	U	N	A
G	O	A	D	■	■	G	O	O	S	E	■	S	S	S
■	■	■	I	F	Y	O	U	W	A	N	T	■	■	■
A	S	A	■	E	O	S	I	N	■	■	I	S	L	A
F	A	B	R	A	Y	■	■	S	T	I	G	M	A	S
T	H	E	C	R	O	W	D	■	A	G	H	A	S	T
M	A	Y	S	■	■	O	R	I	E	N	T	■	■	■
O	R	A	■	T	O	F	O	L	L	O	W	Y	O	U
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T	N	T	■	C	O	T	E	S	■	E	D	N	A	S

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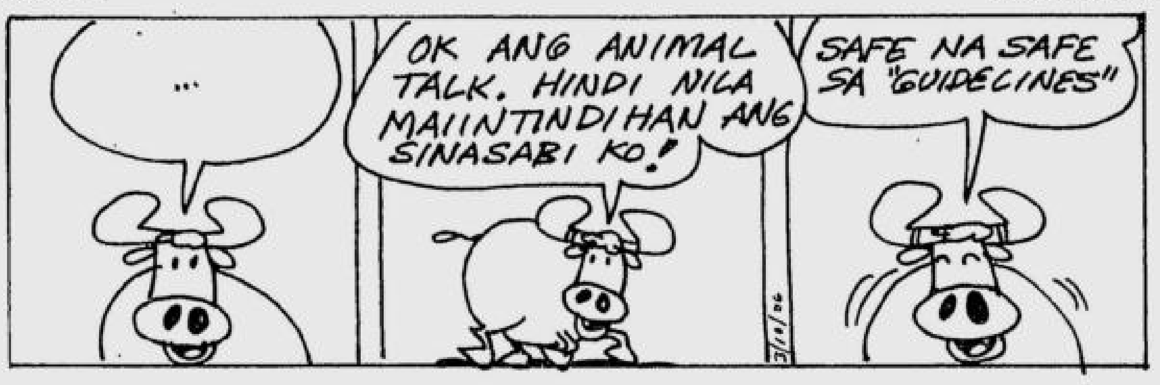
3/10/06

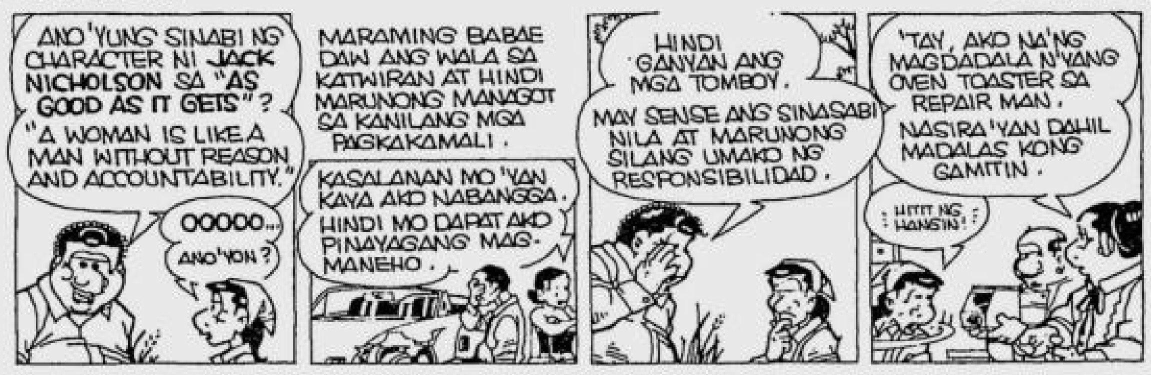
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


...
OK ANG ANIMAL TALK. HINDI NILA MAIINTINDIHAN ANG SINASABI KO!
SAFE NA SAFE SA "GUIDELINES"
3/10/06

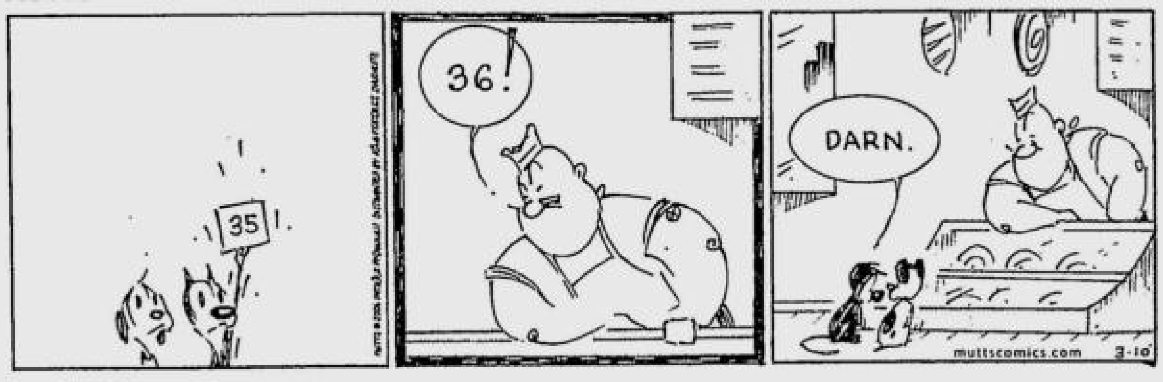
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO'YUNG SINABI NG CHARACTER NI JACK NICHOLSON SA "AS GOOD AS IT GETS"? "A WOMAN IS LIKE A MAN WITHOUT REASON AND ACCOUNTABILITY."
OOOOO...
ANO'YON?
MARAMING BABAE DAW ANG WALA SA KATWIRAN AT HINDI MARUNONG MANAGOT SA KANILANG MGA PAGKAKAMALI.
KASALANAN MO 'YAN KAYA AKO NABANGGA. HINDI MO DAPAT AKO PINAYAGANG MAG-MANEHO.
HINDI GANYAN ANG MGA TOMBOY.
MAY SENSE ANG SINASABI NILA AT MARUNONG SILANG UMAKO NG RESPONSIBILIDAD.
'TAY, AKO NA'NG MAGDADALA N'YANG OVEN TOASTER SA REPAIR MAN.
NASIRA 'YAN DAHIL MADALAS KONG GAMITIN.
HITIT NG HANGIN!

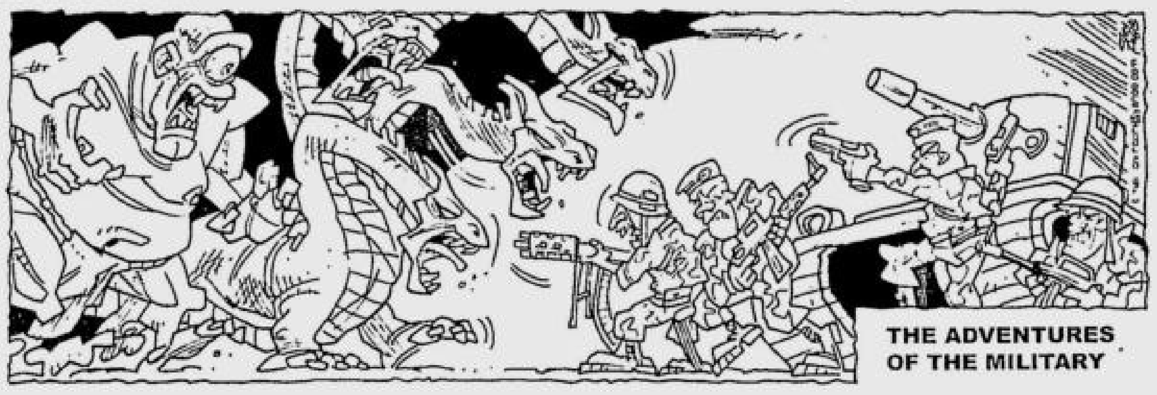
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


35
36!
DARN.
muttscomics.com
3-10

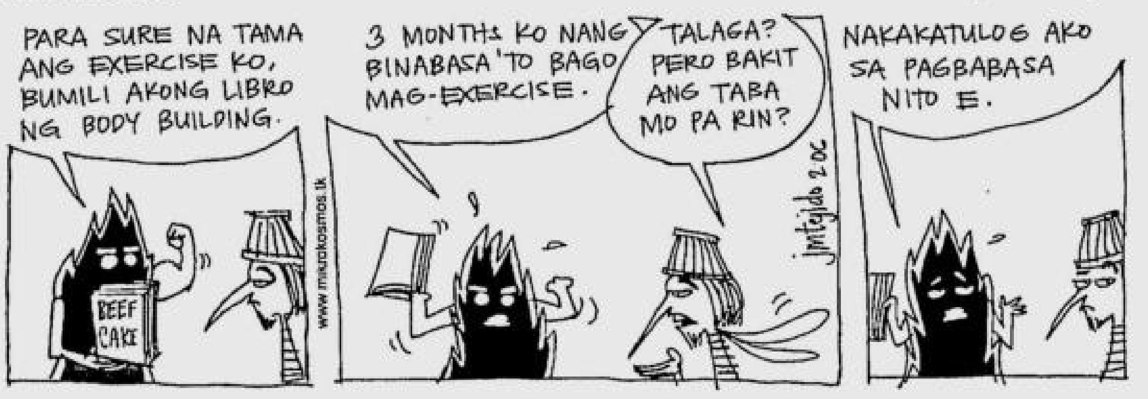
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE ADVENTURES OF THE MILITARY

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PARA SURE NA TAMA ANG EXERCISE KO, BUMILI AKONG LIBRO NG BODY BUILDING.
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TALAGA? PERO BAKIT ANG TABA MO PA RIN?
NAKAKATULOG AKO SA PAGBABASA NITO E.
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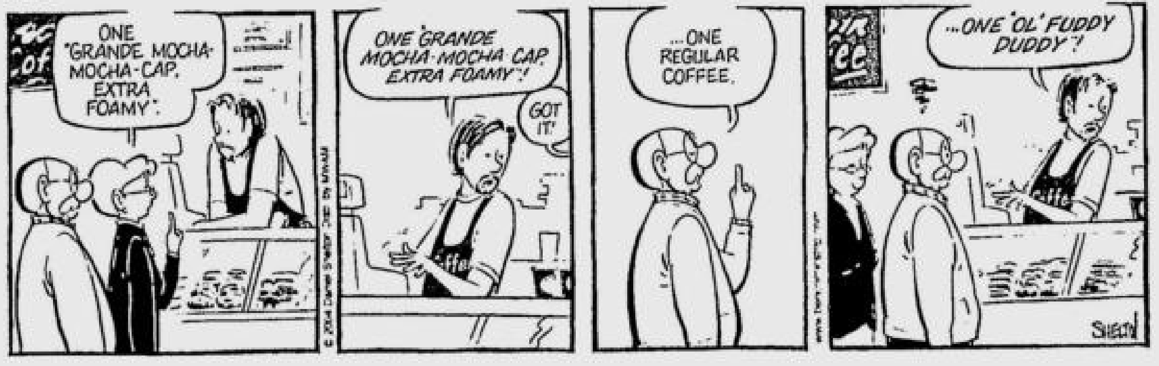
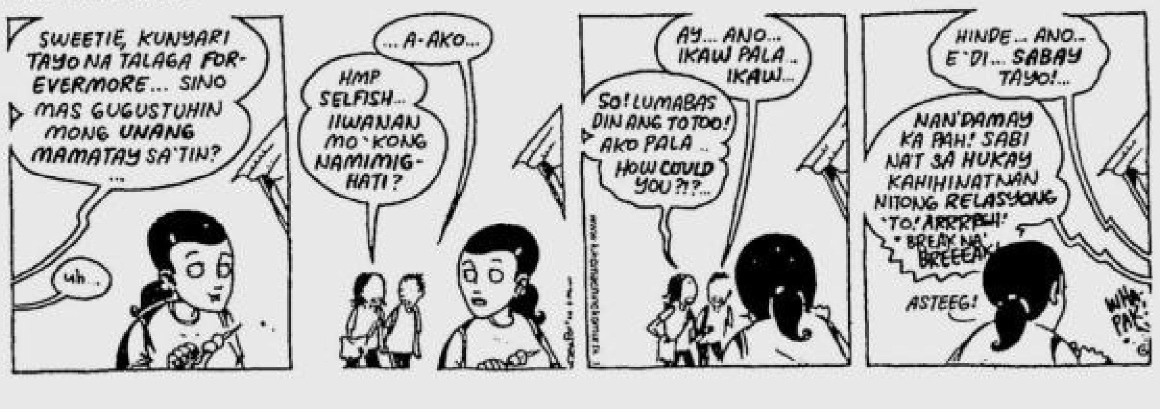
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


ONE "GRANDE MOCHA-MOCHA-CAP, EXTRA FOAMY".
ONE GRANDE MOCHA-MOCHA CAP, EXTRA FOAMY!
GOT IT!
...ONE REGULAR COFFEE.
...ONE 'OL' FUDDY DUDDY'!
SHELTON

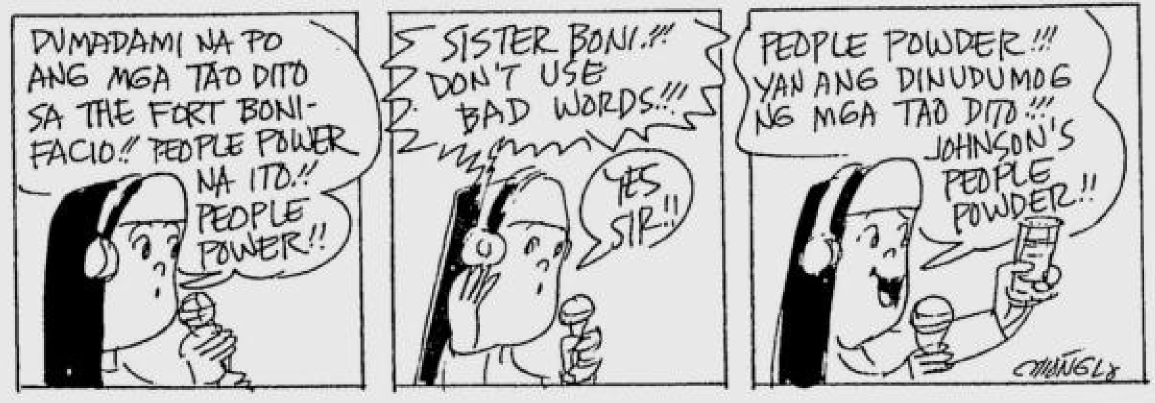
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SWEETIE, KUNYARI TAYO NA TALAGA FOREVERMORE... SINO MAS GUGUSTUHIN MONG UNANG MAMATAY SA'TIN?
...
uh...
...A-AKO...
HMP SELFISH... IIWANAN MO KONG NAMIMIGHATI?
AY... ANO... IKAW PALA... IKAW...
SO! LUMABAS DIN ANG TOTOO! AKO PALA... HOW COULD YOU?!?...
HINDE... ANO... E'DI... SABAY TAYO!...
NAN'DAMAY KA PAH! SABI NAT SA HUKAY KAHIHINATNAN NITONG RELASYONG 'TO! ARRRGH!
BREAK NA! BREEEAK!
ASTEEG!
WHA-PAK!

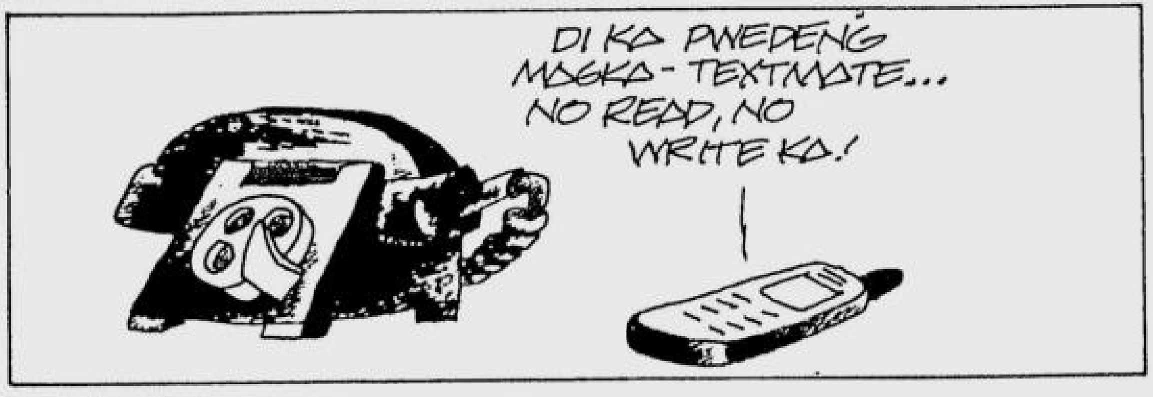
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DUMADAMI NA PO ANG MGA TAO DITO SA THE FORT BONIFACIO!! PEOPLE POWER NA ITO!! PEOPLE POWER!!
SISTER BONI.!!! DON'T USE BAD WORDS!!!
YES SIR!!
PEOPLE POWDER!!! YAN ANG DINUDUMOG NG MGA TAO DITO!!!
JOHNSON'S PEOPLE POWDER!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI KA PWEDENG MAGKA-TEXTMATE... NO READ, NO WRITE KA!

ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor
Emmie G. Velarde
Text us your feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE POPCORN Fountain

WINNERS Neill dela Llana (left) and Ian Gamazon

PHOTOS BY RUBEN NEPALES

But where's the cash?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FIVE MONTHS AFTER THE Cinemanila International Film Festival, winners in the local digital competition have yet to receive cash prizes totaling P3.25 million.

This was disclosed by winners Mes de Guzman and Briccio Santos and Arles Jimenez, officer in

BUT WHERE'S/ A2-2

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Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (Mar 11) Rachel Ann Go (Mar. 12) Barbie Almabis (Mar. 25) Starmall Edsa

At the Indies, where 'Cavite' won

LOS ANGELES—ACTRESS LILI TAYLOR'S mispronunciation of "Cavite" when its Filipino-American filmmakers Ian Gamazon and Neill Dela Llana won a prize Saturday last week at the Independent Spirit Awards reflected the easygoing vibe at these indie Oscars.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Lili, who presented—with Willem Dafoe—the IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award with a $25,000 unrestricted grant to RP-born Ian and Neill, pronounced it as "Ca-veet."

In other awards shows, presenters are thoroughly rehearsed so they will pronounce names and titles correctly. Things are done differently at the Indies; by its very name, it is the opposite of the Oscars, which tends to take itself too seriously.

Just going to this event, traditionally held on the eve of the Oscars, felt different. I drove to Santa Monica, where I was supposed to take a shuttle to the venue, a tent set up right on the beach. But at the appointed terminal, a volunteer advised me to walk, as the shuttle had been delayed.

I smiled at the chance to stroll close to the Pacific Ocean on a glorious California afternoon, to an awards show, in my jeans and Rockports. The sky was a perfect blue. People on rollerblades and bikes glided by.

In minutes, the white tent came into view. A small crowd of tourists and pedestrians had gathered to watch the arriving stars. At the Oscars, you couldn't approach the vicinity of the Kodak Theatre without a badge. Just try.

I watched the scene with the onlookers before checking in at the press booth. Most stars drove themselves (gasp!); a few arrived in limos. George Clooney got the loudest cheers. He immediately walked over to the fans, signed autographs and posed for snapshots.

The massive tent could house a Barnum & Bailey circus. The tent has come to symbolize the awards show, which began in the early 1980s and which celebrates artistic independence and challenges the status quo.

In the first years, the program was reportedly made of construction paper. Only a few press people bothered to attend the affair held in a little restaurant. The practice of holding the show on Oscars eve has stuck for the original reason: the stars are in town.

Now, the show, which is presented by Film Independent, is televised. There is a red carpet, though most folks still come in jeans, athletic shoes or *tsinelas*. There are no Harry Winston diamonds in sight but many women do wear elegant dresses. Felicity Huffman, who went on to win Best Actress came in a white full-length gown.

AT THE/ A2-4

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When Pia went to the Oscars

By Ruben v. Nepales
LA Correspondent
Photos by Janet Susan R. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—SENDING PIA CLEMENTE, Fil-Am nominee, off to the Oscars was a big production.

More than 30 people turned up at the house of Pia's uncle and aunt, Pol and Aida Idos, to do her hair and make-up, dress her up or simply to wish her good luck.

Larry Clemente—more nervous than his daughter—paced the sidewalk in front of his sister's house in Mission Hills. He was a welcome sight to guests who had lost their way.

Pia, dressed in a beanie, blouse and skirt before perhaps the biggest glamour makeover in her life, greeted everyone.

There was lunch of *pancit*, *menudo* and *lumpiang shanghai*, that was enjoyed by all, including the Caucasian limo driver who had come to pick up Pia and entourage. Of course, they could not depart on schedule. This was a Filipino production and everyone took their sweet time.

In the living room, designer Rajo Laurel—who just fulfilled his dream to dress up someone for the Oscars—was ironing two shawls for the gown that he and David Tupaz had created for Pia.

David told us how he convinced Pia, a simple girl with simple tastes, not to worry about going glam for one of the biggest nights of her life.

Pia calmly submitted to the makeup handiwork of Fil-Am stylist Maxi, who went about his business like an artist painting on canvas.

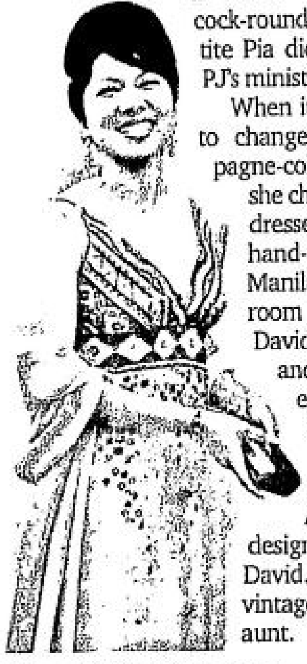
Next, Lingayen native PJ Tandoc worked his magic on Pia's hair. He said he had come up with "a French twist with a peacock-rounded hairstyle." Petite Pia did look taller after PJ's ministrations.

When it was time for her to change into the champagne-colored gown that she chose from the three dresses that Rajo had hand-carried from Manila, Pia went into a room with Rajo and David. Everyone oohhd and aahhd when she emerged minutes later.

Pia wore earrings made of Austrian crystals, designed for her by David. On her wrist was a vintage bracelet from an aunt.

WHEN PIA/ A2-5

RAJO at the ironing board, and David



PIA, coiffed and made-up.

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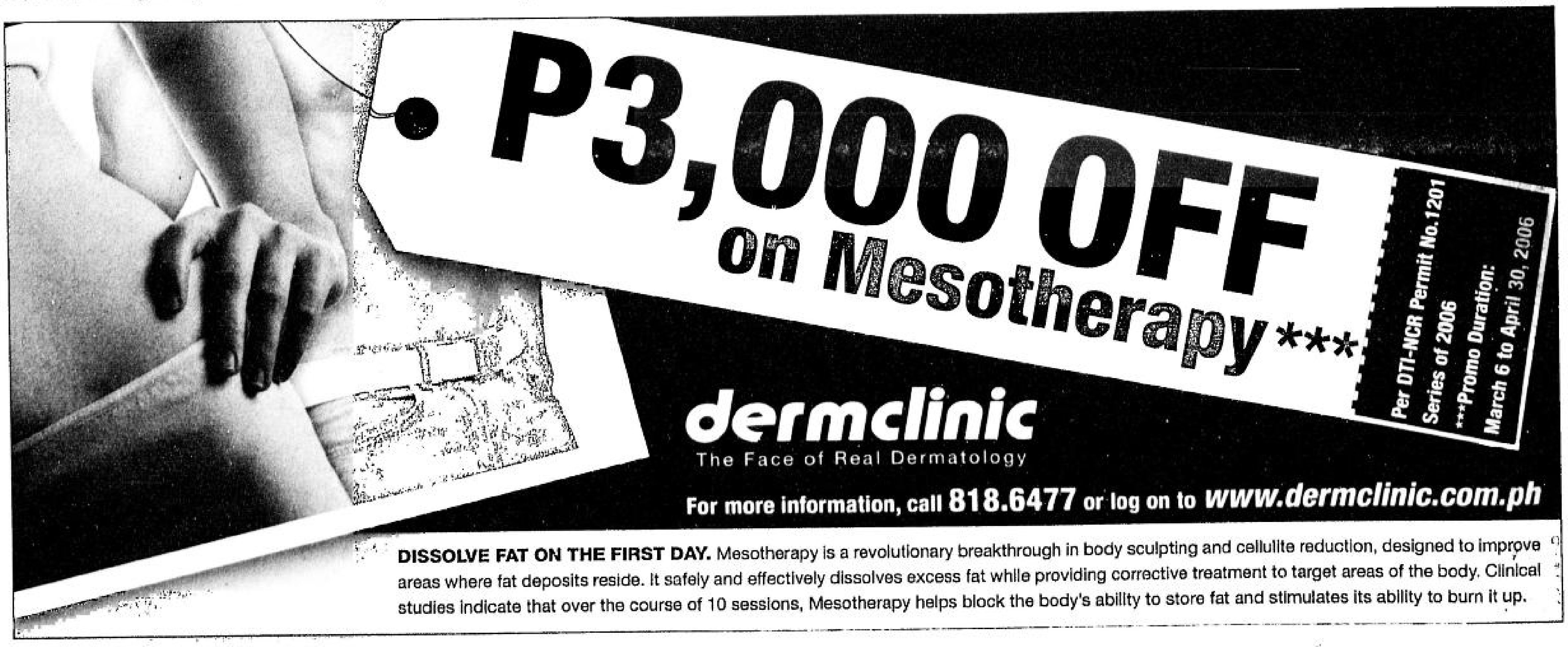

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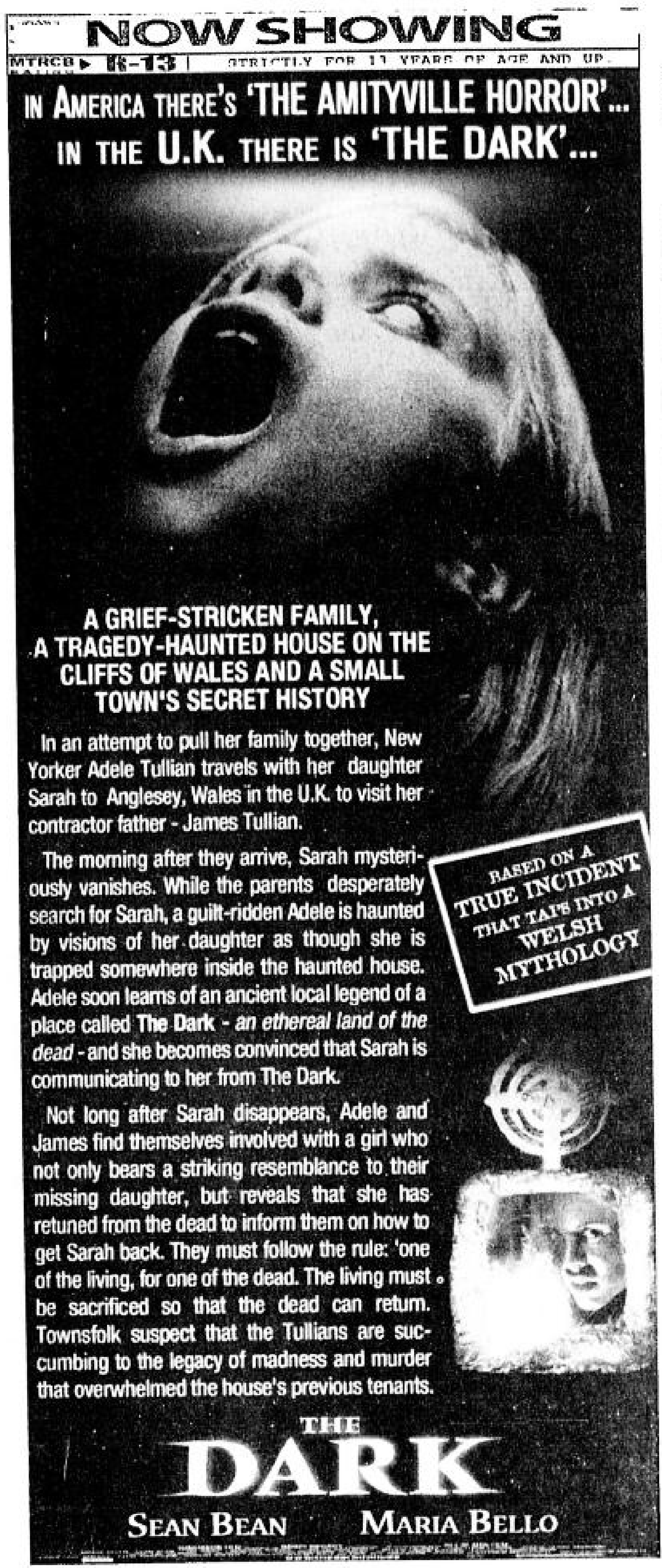
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In an attempt to pull her family together, New Yorker Adele Tullian travels with her daughter Sarah to Anglesey, Wales in the U.K. to visit her contractor father - James Tullian.

The morning after they arrive, Sarah mysteriously vanishes. While the parents desperately search for Sarah, a guilt-ridden Adele is haunted by visions of her daughter as though she is trapped somewhere inside the haunted house. Adele soon learns of an ancient local legend of a place called **The Dark** - *an ethereal land of the dead* - and she becomes convinced that Sarah is communicating to her from The Dark.

Not long after Sarah disappears, Adele and James find themselves involved with a girl who not only bears a striking resemblance to their missing daughter, but reveals that she has retuned from the dead to inform them on how to get Sarah back. They must follow the rule: 'one of the living, for one of the dead. The living must be sacrificed so that the dead can return. Townsfolk suspect that the Tullians are succumbing to the legacy of madness and murder that overwhelmed the house's previous tenants.

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Drawing of winner is on May 20, 2006.

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But where's . . .

From page A2-1

charge of the Tourism and Cultural Affairs Bureau of the City of Manila, major sponsor of the event.'

Auraeus Solito's "Tuli," first place winner, was supposed to receive P1.5 million; second placer De Guzman's "Ang Daan Patungong Kalimugtong," P1 million; and third placer Santos' "la Verde, Ala Pobre," P750,000.

Jimenez told Inquirer in a phone interview that city hall was "still looking for other possible sources of funds." He said city hall had requested P1 million from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). "But we only received P900,000 [and were promised] the balance of P100,000 upon liquidation."

The P900,000 NCCA grant was to have been divided among the five finalists (who received P100,000 each) and the second and third place winners, Jimenez said.

"We planned to award the cash prize to the first placer at a later date," he added.

And so at press time, the finalists have received their cash prizes, but not the winners—"Not a single centavo," De Guzman reiterated.

Pressed for a time table, Jimenez declined and simply said, "Hopefully [it will be] soon."

Two . . .

From page A2-6

Jessica Alba.

How do you deal with aggressive gays?

I am not homophobic but when they get too forward I back off. I respect gay relationships but it's something I'll never get into.

What kind of a lover are you?

The one-woman type.

How can a girl satisfy you?

She should take care of me like a baby and be nice to my family.

Should she be a virgin?

It doesn't really matter to me.

Piolo in love?

From Polo, we go to **Piolo**. There seems to be a special someone in **Piolo Pascual**'s life. He has blocked off a whole week in June from his super-busy sched just to make sure he can celebrate this mystery girl's birthday in a big way. Someone told me he has been stocking up on *ube* ice cream, the girl's favorite, and has ordered a 10-foot high balloon and flower arrangement (pink and white anthuriums) for the lucky lass. Who could she be?

(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com)

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CASANOVA	2 YOURS, MINE & OURS	3 THX 16 BLOCKS [illegible] 45, 6 00, 8 15, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 CAPOTE	5 FEARLESS	6 DATE MOVIE	7 LAST HOLIDAY
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 DATE MOVIE	2 CASANOVA		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX DATE MOVIE 1 40, 3 35, 5 30, 7 25, 9 20, 11 15 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX 16 BLOCKS 2 30, 4 45, 7 00, 9 15, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 LAST HOLIDAY 1 50, 4 15, 6 40, 9 05, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 YOURS, MINE & OURS 2 50, 5 00, 7 10, 9 20, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CASANOVA [illegible] 50, 4 [illegible], 6 40, 9 05, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX 16 BLOCKS	2 CASANOVA		
	3 DATE MOVIE	4 LAST HOLIDAY	5 YOURS, MINE & OURS	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 16 BLOCKS	2 DATE MOVIE	3 YOURS, MINE & OURS	4 ST. ANGE
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 16 BLOCKS	2 YOURS, MINE & OURS		
	3 UNDERCLASSMAN	4 CASSANOVA	5 DATE MOVIE	

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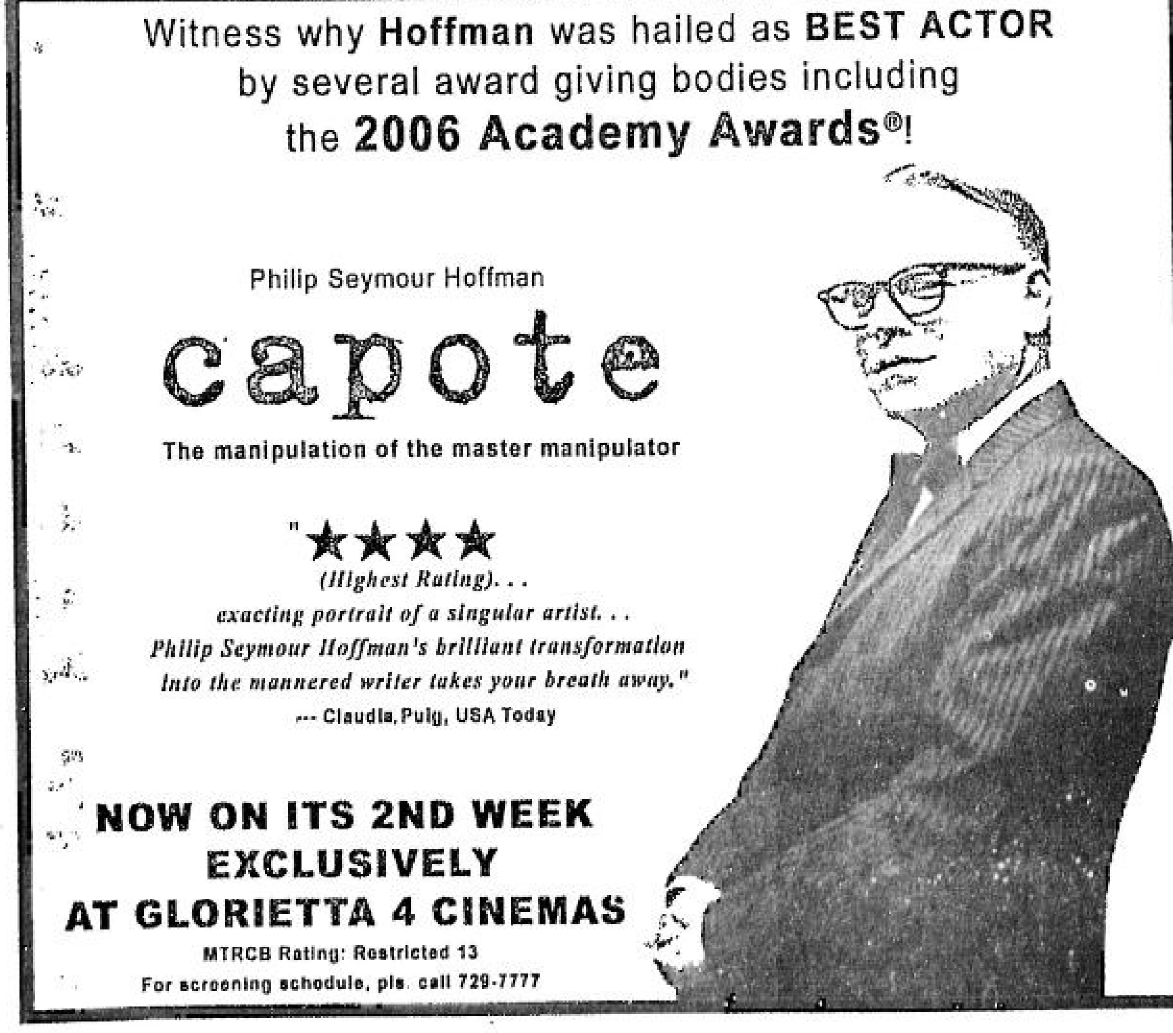
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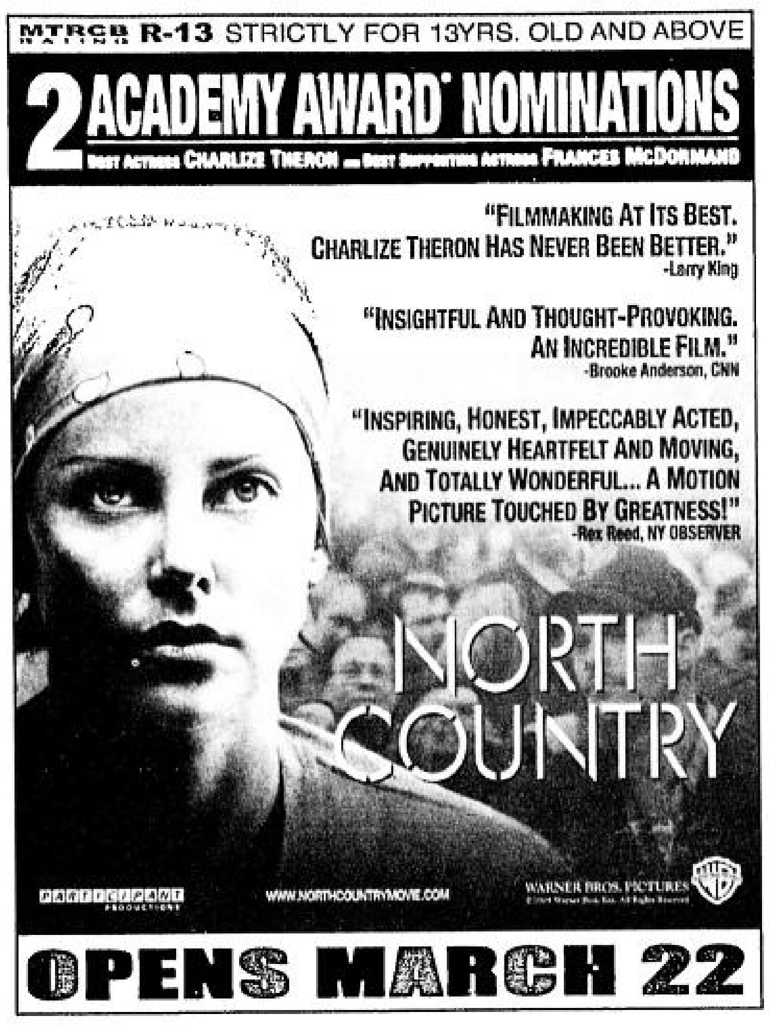

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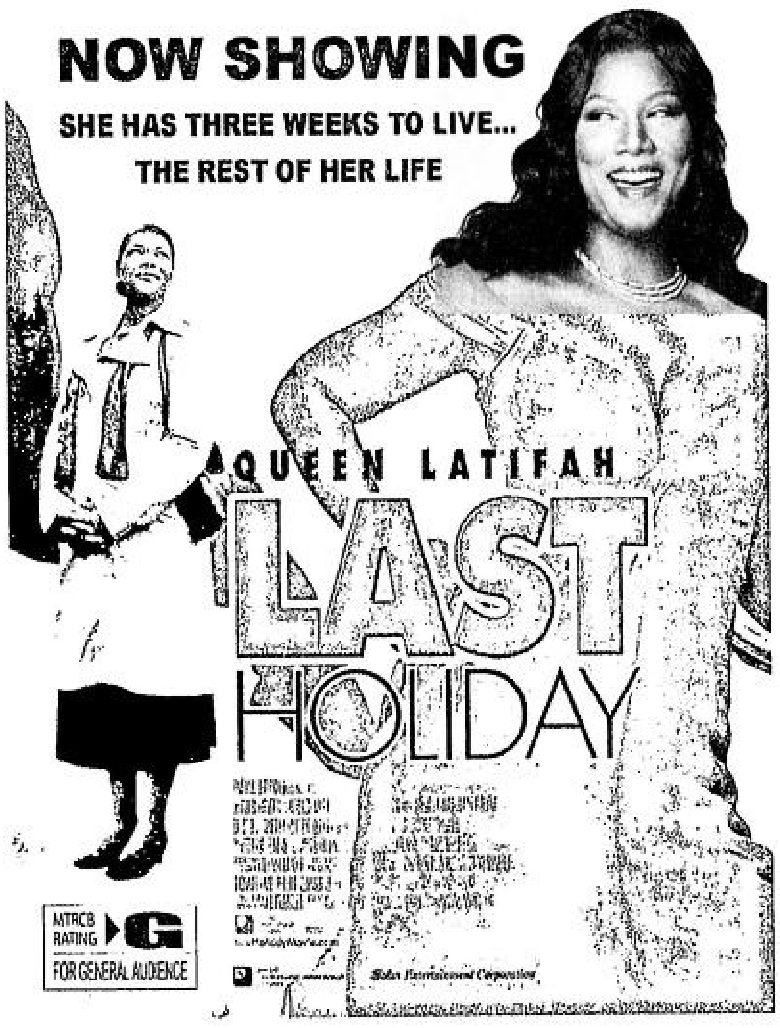

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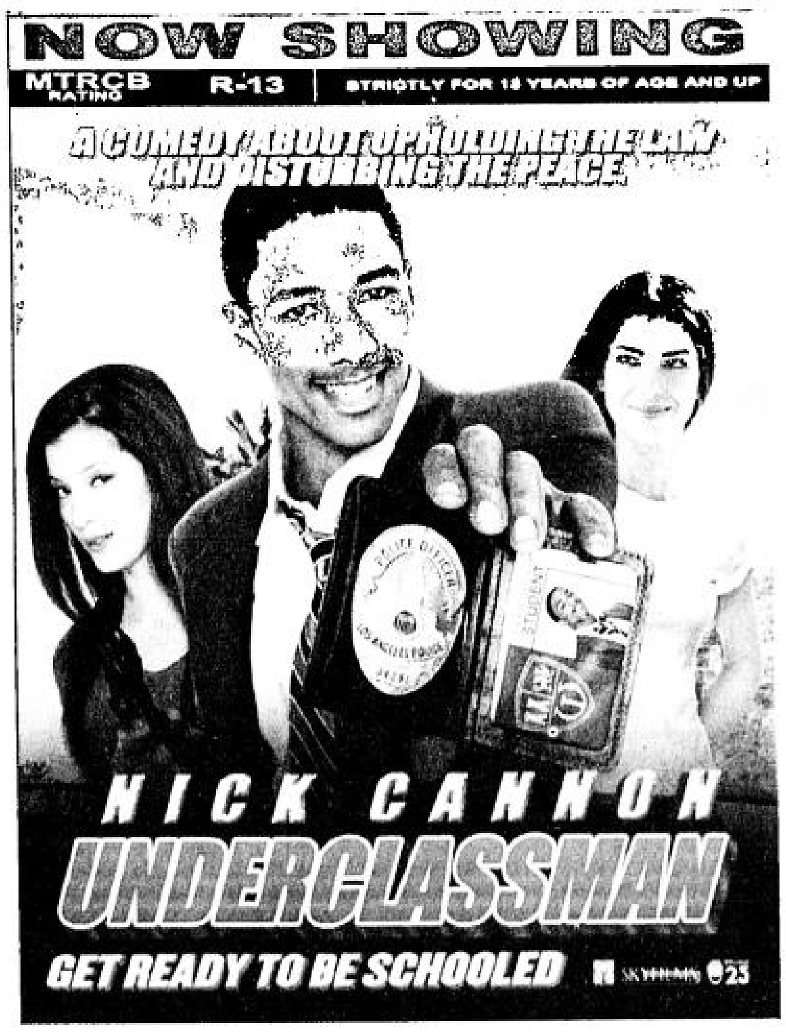

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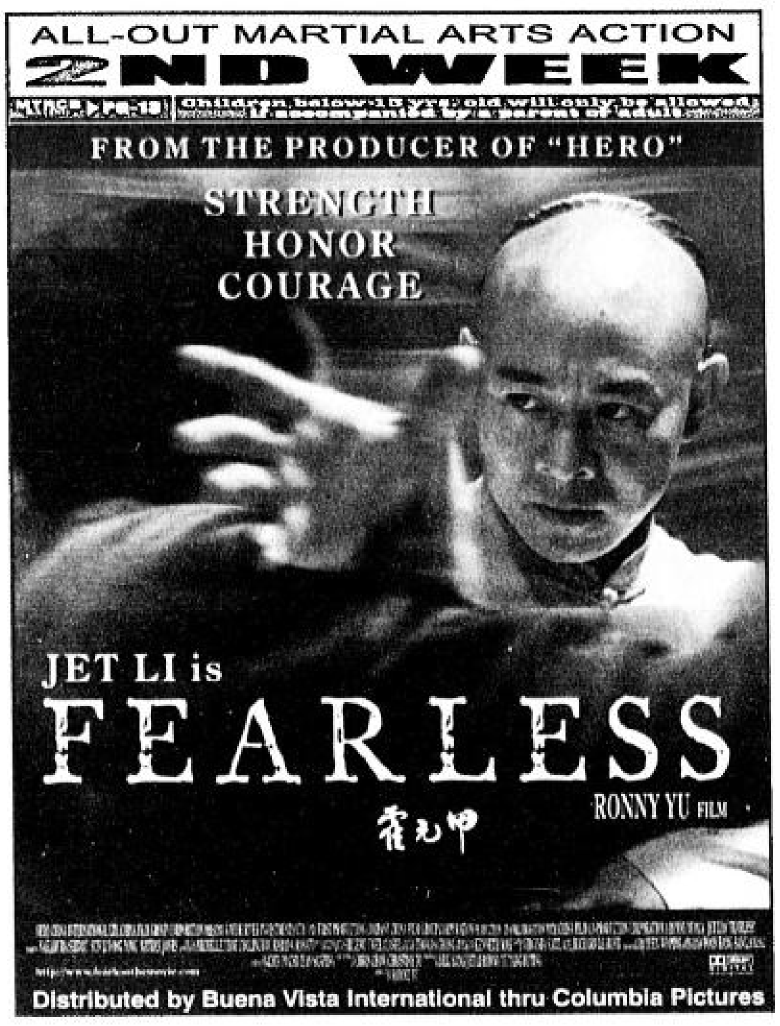
NOW SHOWING



ALL-OUT MARTIAL ARTS ACTION

2ND WEEK

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

FROM THE PRODUCER OF "HERO"

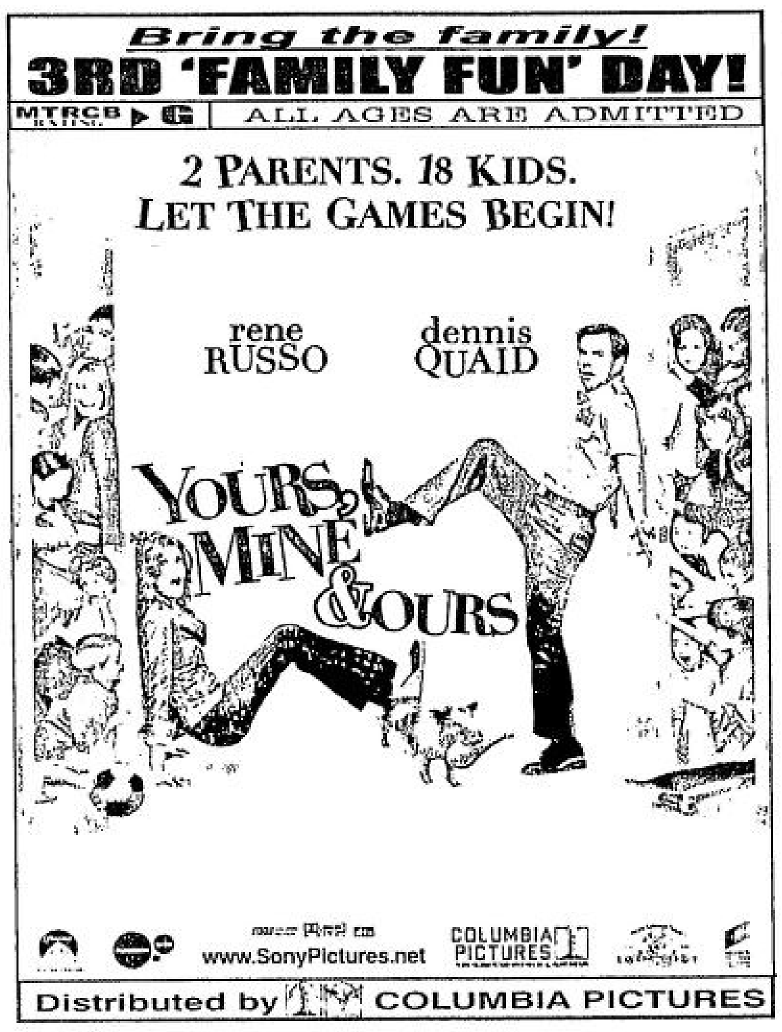
STRENGTH
HONOR
COURAGE

JET LI is FEARLESS

霍元甲

RONNY YU FILM

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



Bring the family!

3RD 'FAMILY FUN' DAY!

MTRCB RATING G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED

2 PARENTS. 18 KIDS.
LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

rene RUSSO dennis QUAID

YOURS, MINE & OURS

www.SonyPictures.net COLUMBIA PICTURES

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GREENHILLS CINEMAS

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 DATE MOVIE 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10 R18

CINEMA 2 LAST HOLIDAY 10:35, 12:50, 3:10, 5:35, 8:05, 10:30 GP

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS

...a dinetertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 16 BLOCKS 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10 PG13

CINEMA 4 CASANOVA 10:35, 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35 R13

CINEMA 5 YOURS, MINE, & OURS 11:40, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:25, 10:35 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

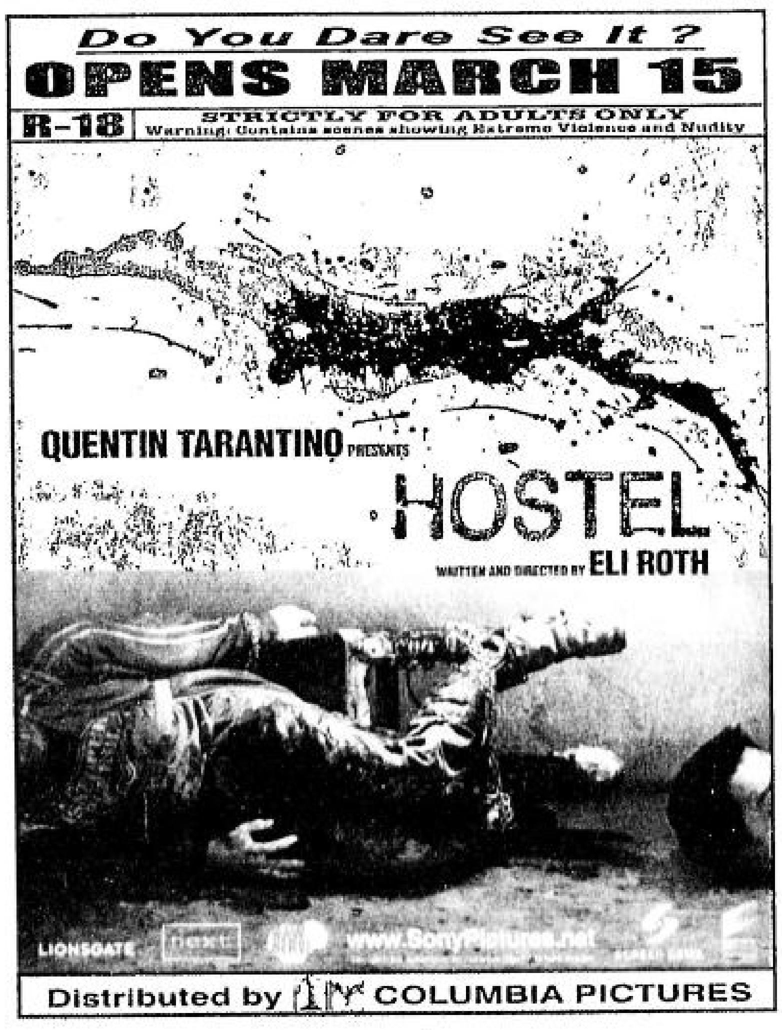
MUSIC MUSEUM

MARCH 18, 2006	VINA M., RACHEL A., GENEVA C.	9:00PM
MARCH 30, 2006	RICO J. PUNO	9:00PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

TEATRINO DANCE NIGHT
every MONDAY starting
MARCH 6 7PM
FOR INQUIRIES
CALL 722-4532 LOC.116

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635



Do You Dare See It ?

OPENS MARCH 15

R-18 STRICTLY FOR ADULTS ONLY Warning: Contains scenes showing Extreme Violence and Nudity

QUENTIN TARANTINO PRESENTS HOSTEL

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ELI ROTH

LIONSGATE www.SonyPictures.net

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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call:
687-6963

GUARANTEED SEATS

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	CASSANOVA	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	R-13
2	YOURS, MINE AND OURS	11:40, 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00	GP
3	16 BLOCKS	1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
4	LAST HOLIDAY	11:55, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35	GP

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

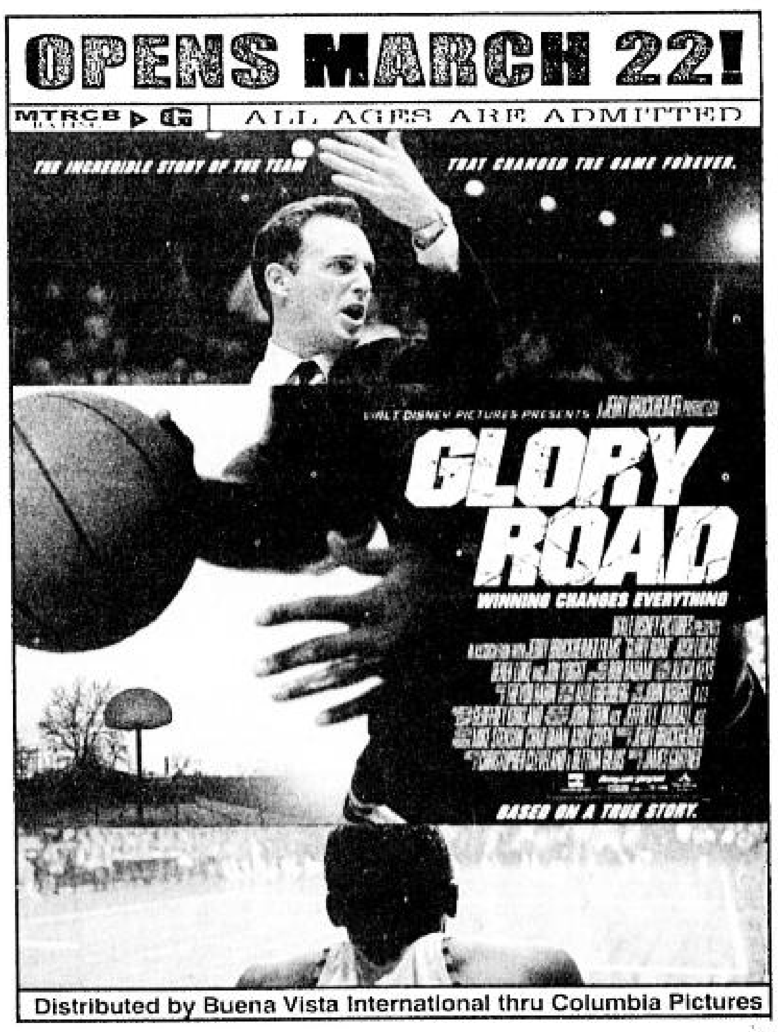
DATE MOVIE R18 1:40,3:40,5:40,7:40,9:40	CASANOVA R13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:10	YOURS, MINE AND OURS G 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25
THE LAST HOLIDAY G 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00	UNDERCLASSMAN R13 1:30,3:35,5:40,7:45,9:50	16 BLOCKS PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:20

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 144-11
Matinee Screenings before 5:00 p.m. "Free Seating" P111.00 – Monday-Friday.

Rockwell Vintage Bazaar Summer Chic

March 18-19 Rockwell Tent

POWER PLANT MALL



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THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF THE TEAM THAT CHANGED THE GAME FOREVER.

WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS

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WINNING CHANGES EVERYTHING

BASED ON A TRUE STORY.

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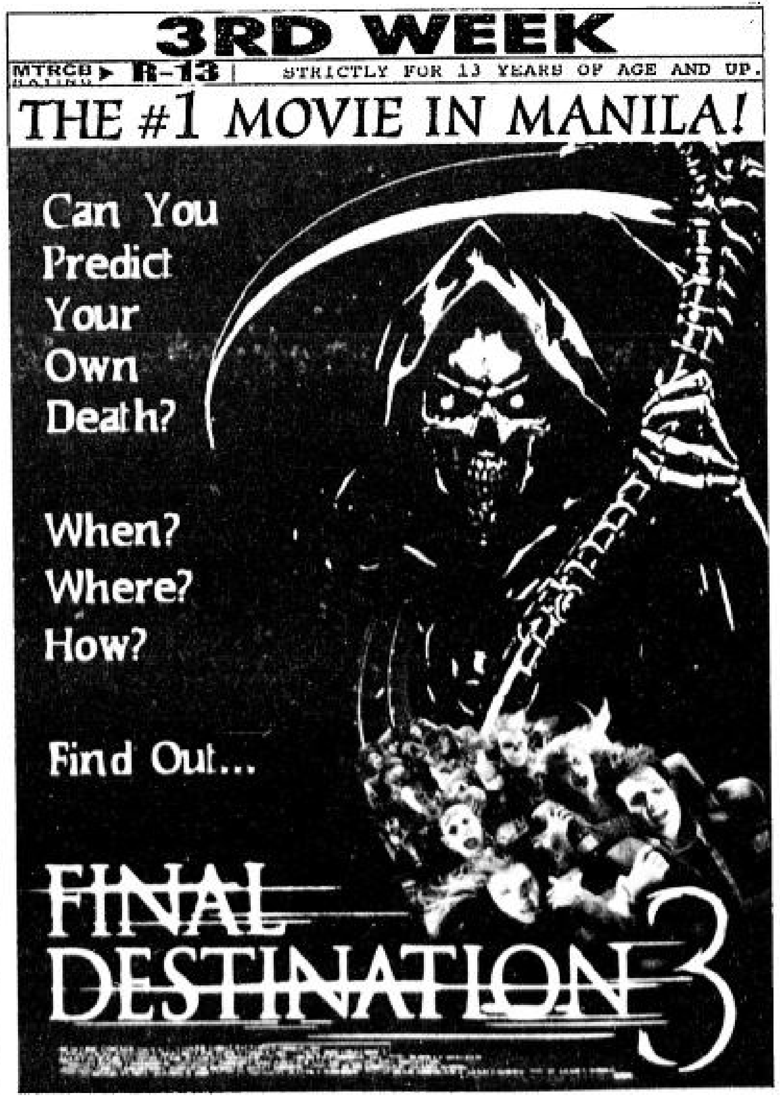

3RD WEEK

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.

THE #1 MOVIE IN MANILA!

Can You
Predict
Your
Own
Death?

When?
Where?
How?

Find Out...

FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CINEMA

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BIG MOVIES • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

SM CENTERstage · MAXMEDIA PRESENT

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THE APO EXPERIENCE

MARCH 11, 2006 · SATURDAY• 8:30 PM

SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 3

Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-5610/ 891-9999

METRO MANILA

PODIUM

16 BLOCKS

01:40 FS / 02:10 MF
04:25 / 06:40 / 08:30 LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:45 END

YOURS, MINE & OURS

02:15 FS / 02:45 MF
04:50 / 06:55 / 08:25LFS /
09:00 LMF / 10:30 END

SM MEGACINEMA

1 16 BLOCKS
10:15FS / 10:45 MF
01:00 / 03:15 / 05:30
07:45 / 09:30LFS /
04:30 LMF / 06:00 END
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 FEARLESS
4 RESERVED
5 LAST HOLIDAY
6 CASANOVA
7 THE DARK
8 UNDERCLASS MAN
9 FINAL DESTINATION 3
10 PAPURI CONCERT
11 TIGER BLADE
12 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

1 CASANOVA
2 16 BLOCKS
3 THE DARK
4 RESERVED
5 LAST HOLIDAY
6 FINAL DESTINATION 3
7 YOURS, MINE & OURS
8 FEARLESS

SM CITY DASMARINAS

1 FEARLESS
2 16 BLOCKS
3 YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 SYRIANA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

1 THE DARK
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 FEARLESS
6 UNDERCLASS MAN
7 16 BLOCKS
8 CLOSE TO YOU
9 LAST HOLIDAY
10 AEON FLUX
11 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY STA. MESA

1 FEARLESS
2 THE DARK
3 CASANOVA
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 16 BLOCKS
6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
7 YOURS, MINE & OURS
8 LAST HOLIDAY
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 UNDERCLASS MAN

SM CITY BICUTAN

1 16 BLOCKS
2 UNDERCLASS MAN
3 YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 FEARLESS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO

1 16 BLOCKS
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 THE DARK
4 FEARLESS
5 CASANOVA
6 YOURS, MINE & OURS

SM CITY MANILA

1 CASANOVA
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 THE DARK
5 YOURS, MINE & OURS
6 FEARLESS
10:30FS / 12:45
03:00 / 05:10
07:20 / 09:05LFS /
09:30 LMF / 11:15 END
7 UNDERCLASS MAN
8 LAST HOLIDAY
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
11 16 BLOCKS
12 TIGER BLADE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL

1 CASANOVA
2 FEARLESS
3 RESERVED
4 16 BLOCKS
5 YOURS, MINE & OURS
6 UNDERCLASS MAN
7 LAST HOLIDAY
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 THE DARK
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 FEARLESS
3 RESERVED
4 YOURS, MINE & OURS

SM CITY SUCAT

1 YOURS, MINE & OURS
2 FEARLESS
3 16 BLOCKS
4 CLOSE TO YOU

Now Showing at SM Cinemas

CASANOVA

Meet Heath Ledger as the legendary seducer, swashbuckler, explorer and adventurer Mr. Giacomo Casanova and watch how he is challenged by Sienna Miller as the charming Francesca Bruni

MTRCB Rating R-13
Only aged 13 and above will be admitted

Distributed by Buena Vista International

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO

1 FIREWALL
2 AEON FLUX
3 FEARLESS
4 YOURS, MINE & OURS

SM CITY MARILAO

1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2 FEARLESS
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 UNDERCLASS MAN

SM CITY BATANGAS

1 PINK PANTHER
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 MUNICH

SM CITY BACOOR

1 UNDERCLASS MAN
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 16 BLOCKS
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 FEARLESS
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 THE DARK
8 YOURS, MINE & OURS

SM CITY STA. ROSA

1 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 FEARLESS

SM CITY PAMPANGA

1 FEARLESS
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
5 WALK THE LINE
6 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY LUCENA

1 PINK PANTHER
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 GOAL
4 NEW WORLD

SM CITY MOLINO

1 16 BLOCKS
2 FEARLESS
3 UNDERCLASS MAN
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU

1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
11:30FS / 02:00 / 04:30
07:00 09:24 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:50 END
2 FEARLESS
11:20FS / 11:30 MF
01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
07:30 / 09:15 LFS /
09:30 LMF / 11:15 END
3 16 BLOCKS
11:20FS / 11:30 MF
01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
7:30 / 09:15 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:15 END
4 YOURS, MINE & OURS
5 ST. ANGE
6 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 AEON FLUX

SM CITY ILOILO

1 YOURS, MINE & OUR
2 RESERVED
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 FEARLESS
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 NEW WORLD
7 RESERVED
8 NASAAN SI FRANCIS

SM CITY DAVAO

1 FIREWALL
2 PROOF
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FEARLESS
5 YOURS, MINE & OURS
6 AEON FLUX

SM CITY CAGAYAN

1 WALK THE LINE
2 FEARLESS
3 AEON FLUX
4 FIREWALL

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

EXCLUSIVE
Come and visit the
FEARLESS
EXHIBIT
Actual props and costumes used in the movie are now on display at
SM City Manila Cinema lobby
From February 22 to March 14

FROM THE PRODUCER OF "HERO"
STRENGTH
HONOR
COURAGE
FEARLESS
NOW SHOWING

Bamboo in Davao

BAMBOO

SHOW TIME

BAMBOO PERFORMS AT D' Venue in Davao tomorrow, as part of the 2006 Winston Wings Tour. Only those 18 years old and above will be admitted to the show. IDs will be required. On March 17, 7 a.m., the Winston series holds another gig at Atchies Restobar on Ortigas, Pasig City, featuring Imago, Stonefree and Velcro.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① YOURS, MINE & OURS
MTRCB GP
1.00, 3.15, 5.30, 7.45, 10:00 LMF

② 16 BLOCKS
MTRCB: PG-13
12.20, 2:45, 5.10, 7:35, 10:00 LMF

③ DATE MOVIE
MTRCB R-18
2.20, 4.15, 6:10, 8.05, 10:00

④ CASANOVA
MTRCB R-13
12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE · THE LAST HOLIDAY
MTRCB GP 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 9.00 LMF

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

Get a Mini Shabu-Shabu Cash Certificate worth P100.00 for every single purchase of two (2) tickets of any movie at the Shang Cineplex.
Promo Period : Feb 15 to Mar 15, 2006. See Posters For Details
Per DTI-NCR Permit Number A3-0166, Series of 2006.

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner
Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) YOURS, MINE & OURS GP
2 (DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS PG13
3 (DOLBY) DATE MOVIE R18
4 (DOLBY) CASANOVA R13

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) LAST HOLIDAY R13

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor.
Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 16 BLOCKS
2 FEARLESS - PG13
3 YOUR, MINE & OURS- GP
4 DATE MOVIE - R18

starmall EDSA-SHAW

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 FEARLESS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5 16 BLOCKS

metropolis star cinema

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1 TIGER BLADE
2 16 BLOCKS
3 CASANOVA
4 FEARLESS

THEATRES

NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan,
Telephone No. (044) 600-3075

1 FIREWALL
2 PINK PANTHER
3 AEON FLUX

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

FIREWALL
YOURS, MINE & OURS
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) THE DARK
2 (SDDS) FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 (DTS) THE LAST HOLIDAY
4 GOLD (DTS) DATE MOVIE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS
6 GOLD (SDDS) YOURS, MINE & OURS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) CASANOVA
8 FEARLESS
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 UNDERCLASSMAN

Blue Wave

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street,
Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) YOURS, MINE & OURS
2 (DOLBY) DATE MOVIE
3 (DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS
2 THE DARK
3 YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 16 BLOCKS
5 DATE MOVIE

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 PINK PANTHER
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
3 SNEAK CHARMER
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 - 833.3274

1 YOURS, MINE & OURS
2 FEARLESS
3 TIGER BLADE

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 FIREWALL
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DTS EX) YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 BLOODRAYNE

Cine Nepo

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED
4 (DTS) RESERVED

Cine Nepo

(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 THE NEW WORLD
3 (DOLBY) AEON FLUX
4 (DTS) PINK PANTHER

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 FEARLESS
2 PINK PANTHER

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) CASSANOVA
2 (DOLBY) YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 (DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS
4 (DOLBY) LAST HOLIDAY

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 DATE MOVIE
2 (SDDS) BLOODRAYNE
3 (DOLBY) FEARLESS
4 YOURS, MINE & OURS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 FINAL DESTINATION
2 (DOLBY) DATE MOVIE
3 (DTS) YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 FEARLESS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 PINK PANTHER
3 (DOLBY) AEON FLUX

Cinema 2000 Metrotown

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 ST. ANGIE
3 (DOLBY) NEW WORLD
4 (DTS) MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 FEARLESS
2 AEON FLUX
3 (DOLBY) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Gapan)

1 PINK PANTHER
2 AEON FLUX

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 CLOSE TO YOU
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) TIGER BLADE
2 MASARAP NA PUGAD
3 MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
4 (DTS) BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS
2 MAGENTA
3 (DTS) YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 BLOODRAYNE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 THE NEW WORLD
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 THE PINK PANTHER
4 FEARLESS

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 TIGERBLADE
2 TAMPISAW

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

At the Indies . . .

From page A2-1

On Saturday, the old tent had been replaced with a deeper one to accommodate more than 1,200 guests. Several smaller tents surrounded the main one. InStyle and Entertainment Weekly hosted lounges. There was a gift lounge where stars snapped up shirts, Ray-Bans, tank tops and other goodies.

Popcorn!

This is the only kudos show where you see Felicity being interviewed near Porta Potties (portable toilets).

Virginia Madsen and Aaron Eckhart ate popcorn from a bag while presenting an award. Outside was a popcorn fountain—with an equivalent of a thousand bags of popcorn—that should be seen to be believed.

The show was as irreverent as ever. There was the usual parody of Best Picture nominees through sing-along songs. Macy Gray, Peter Gallagher and Dwight Yoakam obviously had fun.

When Fil-Ams Ian and Neill went onstage for their crystal IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award plaques, the former exclaimed, "Wow, this (the $25,000 grant) is double our budget (for 'Cavite')."

At last

It was great to finally meet these guys. We had previously corresponded via e-mail. After their brief Q & A with the media (me and a lady reporter—nobody else had questions), I followed them outside the press tent and we chatted some more.

The guys, cool and laid-back, embody the casual spirit of the indie Oscars. I teased, "So, Ian is the one who wants to meet Winona Ryder?" Both guys earlier admitted being "obsessed" with the actress.

Ian said, "I'd like to write a script around her."

The woman assigned to drag the duo from the press tent to InStyle's said they had to move on.

I wondered how they felt as they were suddenly thrust into all the fuss, even being escorted into the InStyle lounge.

The next day, I asked in an e-mail if they were sober. Ian summed up his experience: "It was surreal."

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

Teri Hatcher reveals uncle molested her

SHE says she contemplated suicide. REUTERS

NEW YORK — TERI Hatcher, one of the stars of "Desperate Housewives," says in the upcoming issue of Vanity Fair that her uncle sexually molested her 35 years ago.

Hatcher, 41, says she learned in 2002 that a 14-year-old victim of her uncle had committed suicide. Concerned that he would escape charges of molestation, Hatcher approached the prosecutors.

Blown away

"This is something I've tried to hide my whole life," Hatcher tells the magazine, which hits newsstands Friday with the actress on the cover.

"I was just blown away by this young girl's pain," she says. "I thought, boy, that's really close to being me. I haven't tried to kill myself, but I've certainly thought about it."

After Hatcher came forward, her uncle, Richard Hayes Stone, then 64, pleaded guilty to four counts of child molestation in the case of the 14-year-old and received 14 years in prison.

Hesitation

Hatcher said she initially hesitated because tabloids might suggest she was trying to resuscitate her then-languishing career.

She said she was 5 years old and living in Sunnyvale, California, with her family when Stone would manipulate situations to get her alone with him in his car, where he molested her.

"These are haunting things that I've remembered all my life," she said.

She did not see her uncle after she was 8 or 9 years old and never told her parents, though she thinks they suspected.

"Nobody wanted to talk about it. But all I did was blame myself." *AP*

When Pia . . .

From page A2-1

Photographer Roger Fojas, who set up a velvet backdrop for Pia's formal photo shoot in the backyard, started working. Pia also posed with her parents and then with her giddy glam team—Rajo, David, Maxi and PJ.

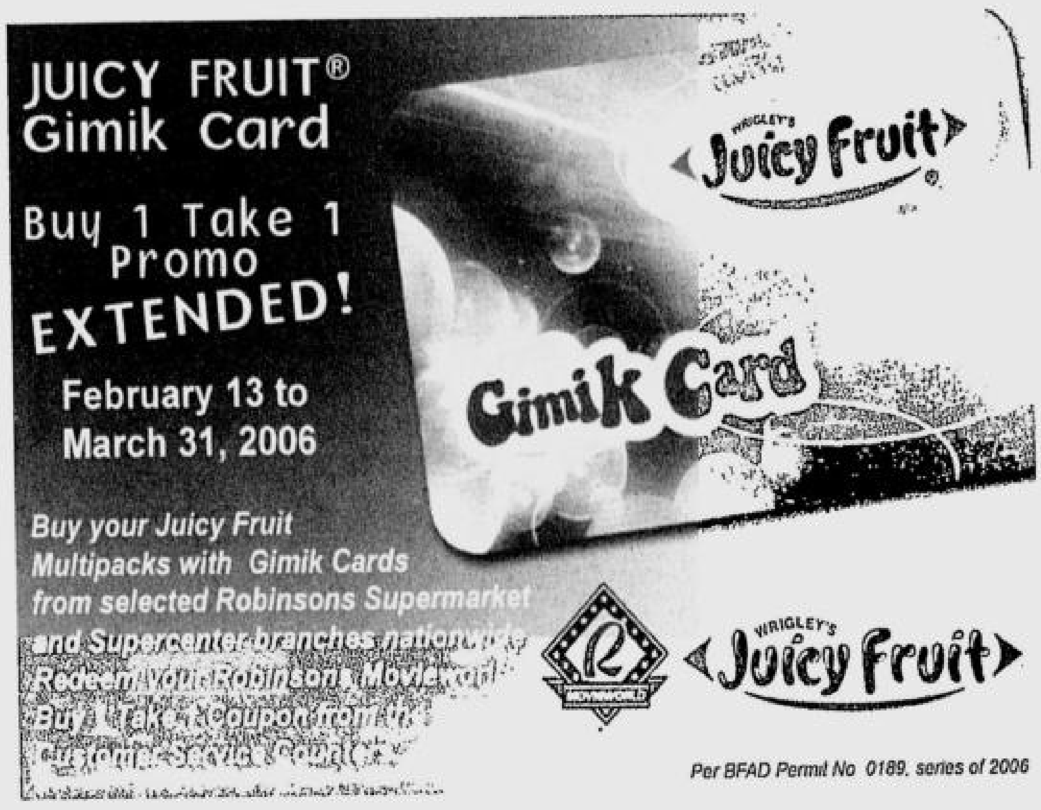
Then it was time for a champagne toast. Holding up a plastic glass (David wanted to get a real champagne glass but there was no time), Pia thanked everybody, especially her family who had flown all the way from New Jersey and Atlanta.

Publicist-friend Winston Emano said Pia's heart would surely beat faster when she sees the star-clogged Hollywood Boulevard.

Pia could bring only her parents to the event but her brothers, Joey (and his wife) and Mark also boarded the limo to enjoy the glamorous ride to the Kodak Theatre.

As Pia disappeared into the limo, Rajo continued to work, arranging her gown so it would stay creaseless all the way to the red carpet.

Pia and Rob Pearlstein both lost—they were nominated for Best Producer and Director, respectively, in the Live Short Film category for "Our Time is Up"—but she said her memories of this special day would forever be cherished.


JUICY FRUIT® Gimik Card
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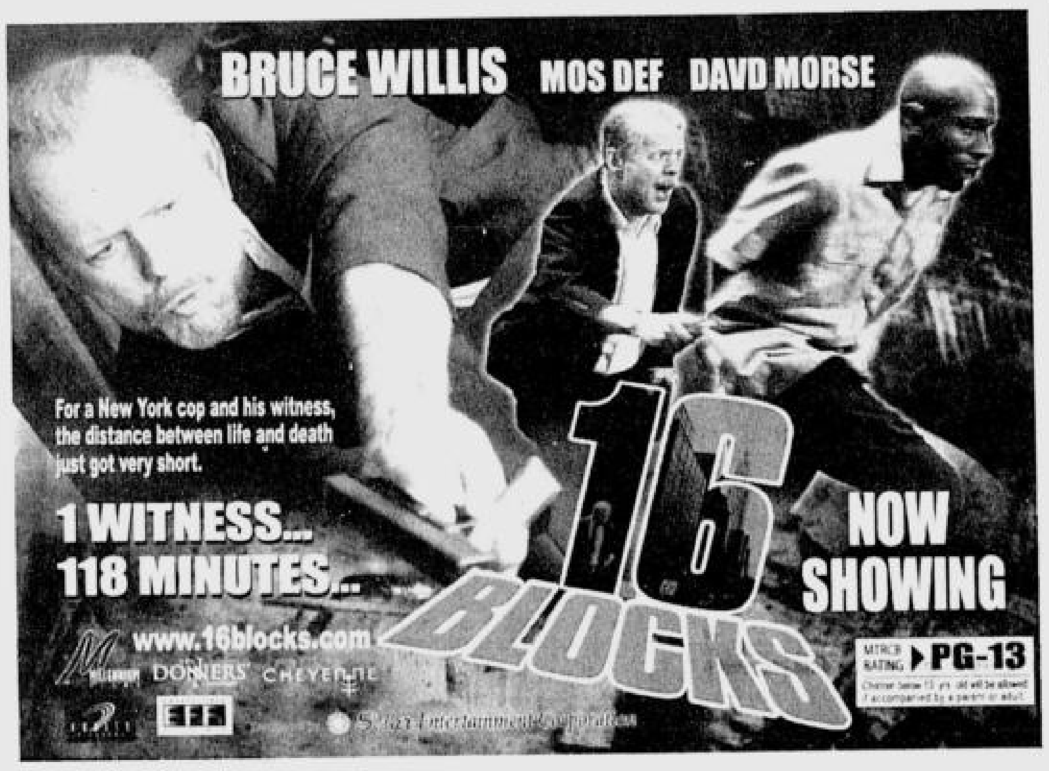
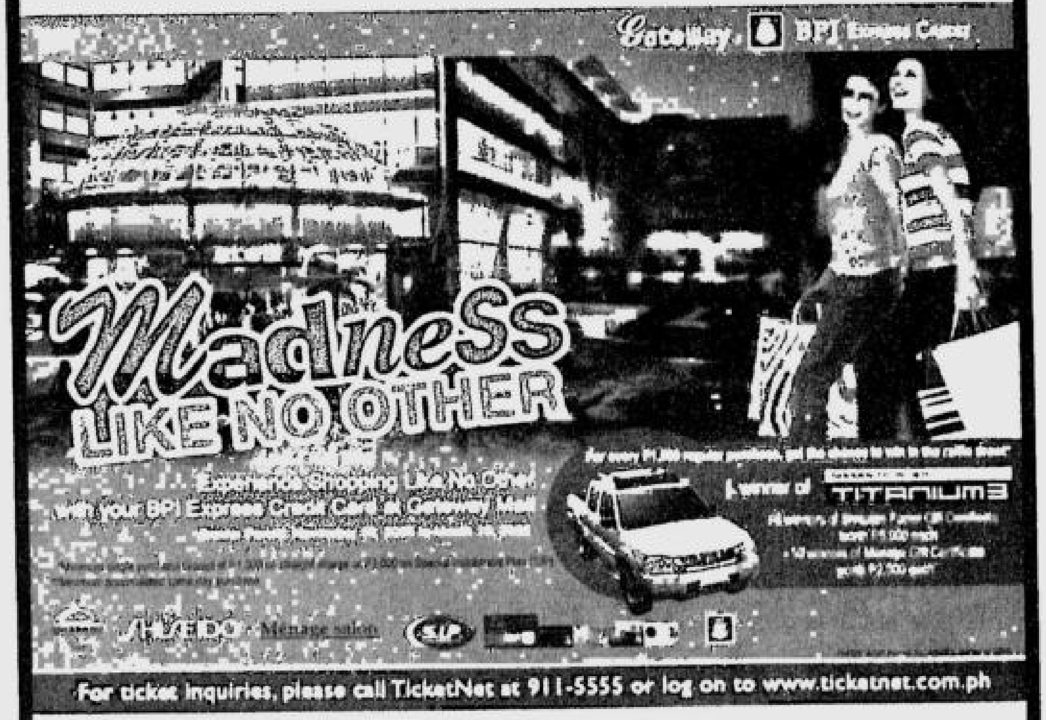
February 13 to March 31, 2006
Buy your Juicy Fruit Multipacks with Gimik Cards from selected Robinsons Supermarket and Supercenter branches nationwide. Redeem your Robinsons Movieworld Buy 1 Take 1 Coupon from the Customer Service Counter.
Per BFAD Permit No 0189, series of 2006


BRUCE WILLIS MOS DEF DAVD MORSE
For a New York cop and his witness, the distance between life and death just got very short.
1 WITNESS... 118 MINUTES...
16 BLOCKS
NOW SHOWING
www.16blocks.com
MTRCB RATING PG-13

ARANETA CENTER
Gateway Aimall FarmersPlaza


Gateway BPI Express Credit
Madness LIKE NO OTHER
Experience Shopping Like No Other with your BPI Express Credit Card at Gateway Mall
TITANIUM3
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THE LAST HOLIDAY 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20	YOURS, MINE & OURS 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	DATE MOVIE 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	16 BLOCKS 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
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1 CASANOVA• THX 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS 11:15 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:45
2 DATE MOVIE 11:15 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:45	7 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
3 16 BLOCKS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	8 UNDERCLASS MAN 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
4 KEYS TO THE HOUSE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	9 THE DARK 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
5 LAST HOLIDAY 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	10 FEARLESS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7909 to 12

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METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

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4 UNDERCLASS MAN 12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00	8 THE DARK 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
2 DATE MOVIE	5 16 BLOCKS
3 CASANOVA	6 UNDERCLASS MAN

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Two heartthrobs—Piolo and Polo

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

WHEN POLO RAVALES WALKS INTO A ROOM, girls and gays swoon!

Oohs and *ahhs* reverberated in the jam-packed Ayala Museum when he was launched as "Folded and Hung's" newest endorser. Oh so "delish" in his brand-new brawny look, **Polo** had arrived just in time for the fashion-forward brand's 2006 Summer Collection.

Clad in a white long-sleeved polo with stylized cuff and front chest pockets over illegally low-rise jeans, **Polo** revealed to us his naughty, sexy side.

What turns you on/off?

A turn-on for me is a girl who carries well whatever she's wearing, and talks sense. I'm turned off by girls who are *maarte, mayabang* and don't smell nice.

What makes a woman sexy?

The whole package. Handling herself with grace and poise in any situation, that's sexy. Intelligence also lends sex appeal to even an ordinary-looking girl.

Which part of a woman's body do you like best?

Her feet, if they're clean (chuckles).

Would you rather have love without sex or sex without love?

Love without sex. Passion fades but true feelings stay.

Where are you most ticklish?

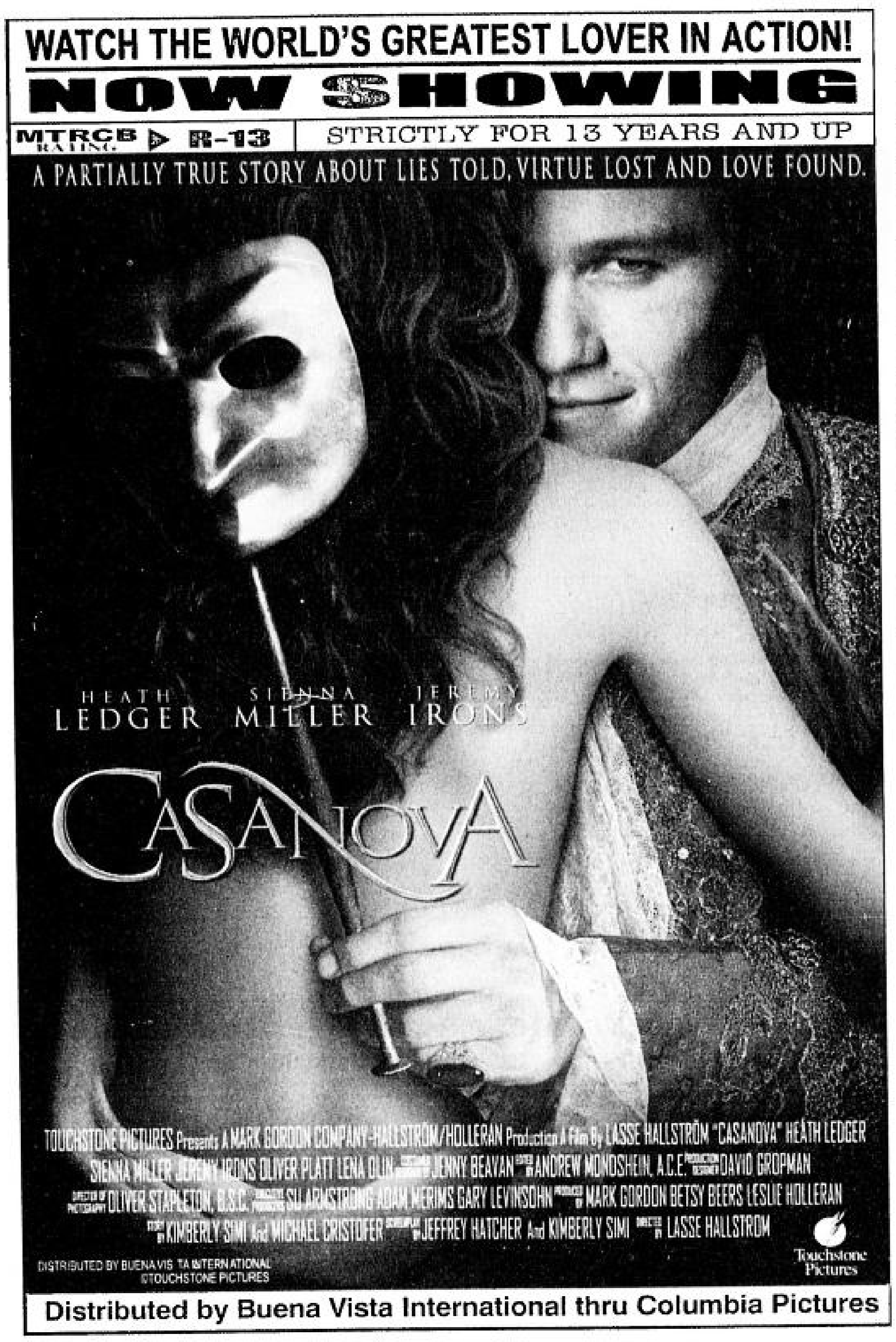
My neck.

How do you let a woman know that you want her?

By never leaving her side.

Who's the sexiest woman for you?

TWO/ A2-2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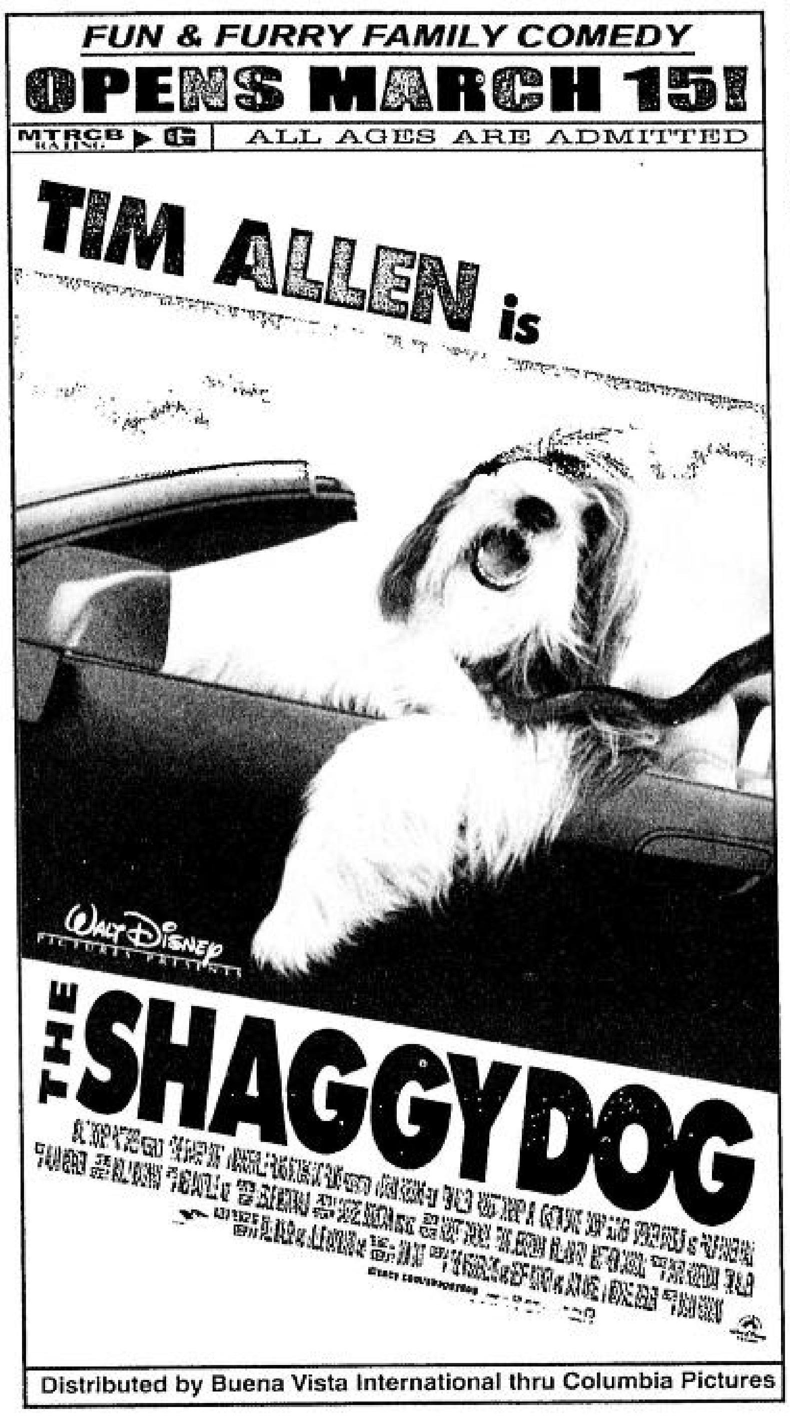
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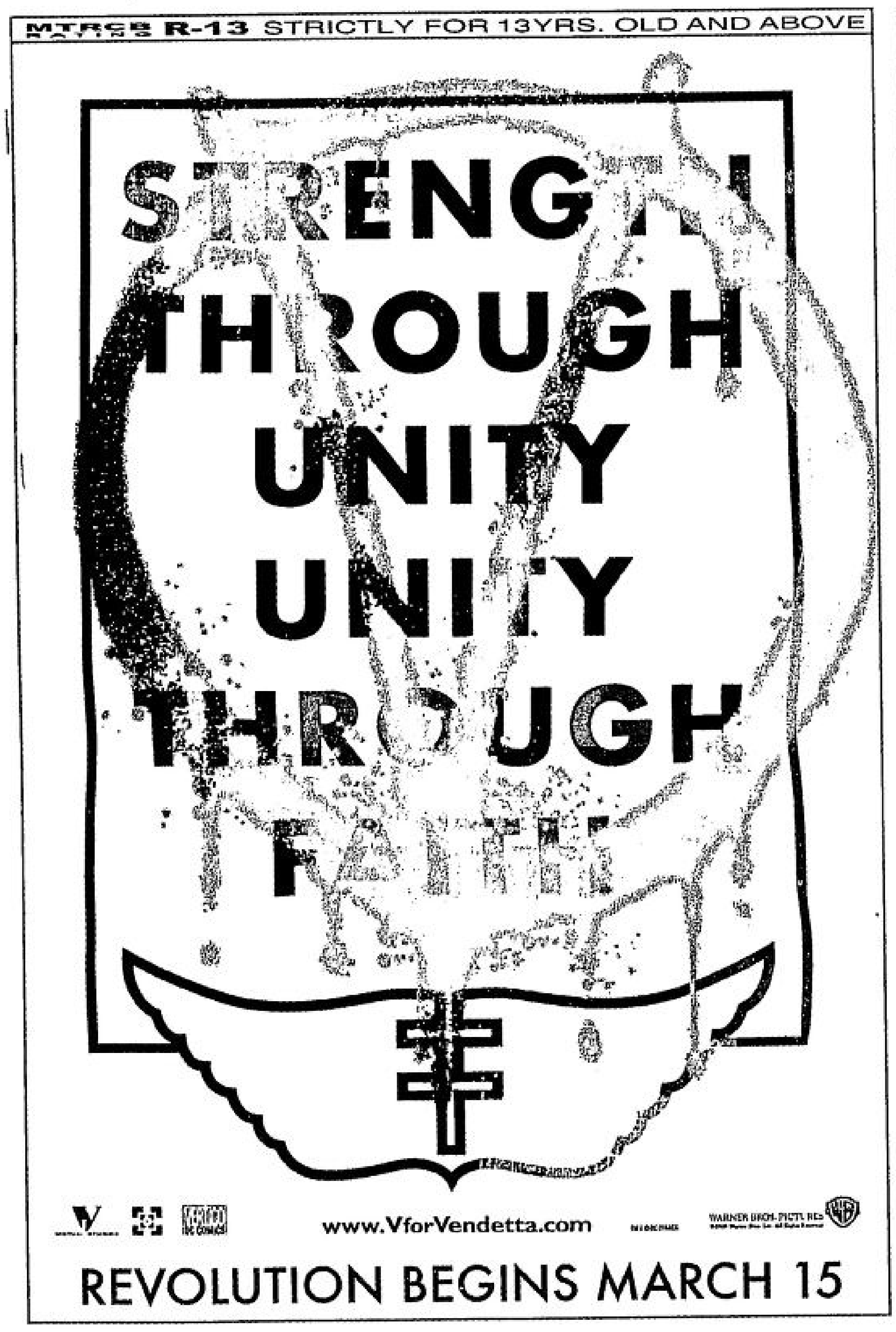
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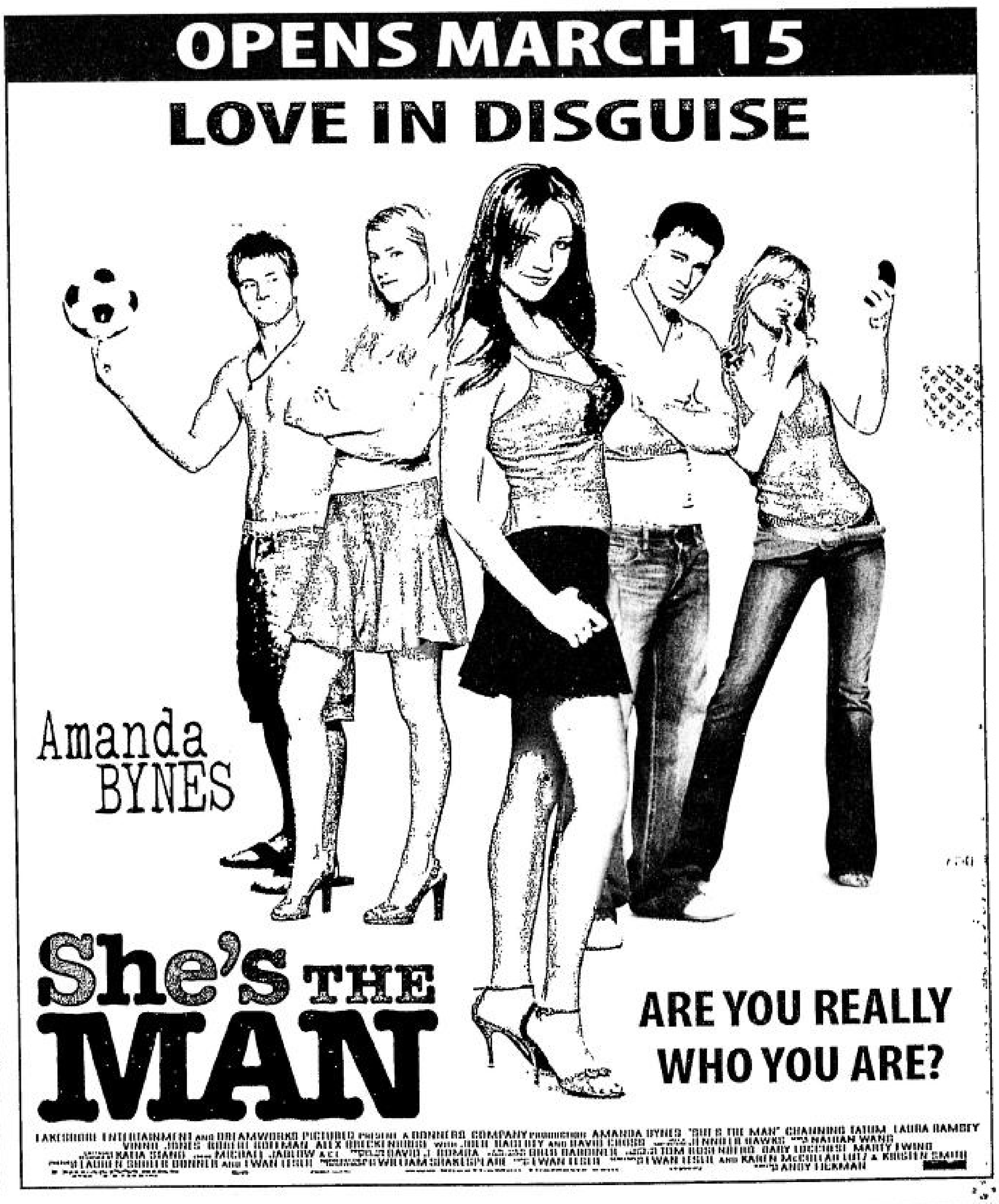
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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Foreign direct investments up 64% to $1.1B

Improved fiscal conditions raised investor confidence, says BSP

By Doris C. Dumlao

NET FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES surged by 64.5 percent in 2005 to $1.1 billion on rising investor sentiment toward the local manufacturing and real estate sectors, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

For the month of December alone, the net FDI flows reached $91 million or 42.4 percent better than the previous year.

"Improved macroeconomic conditions, particularly on the fiscal front, as well as upbeat expectations for 2006, heightened investor confidence as equity capital placements expanded by 25.6 percent to $1.2 billion in 2005 from $963 million in 2004," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Most of the fresh investments poured in from the United States and Hong Kong.

As opposed to portfolio inflows—also known as "hot money" due to their volatile nature—FDI flows represent long-term investments in brick-and-mortar businesses that are usually capital- and labor-intensive. Much of the inflows are spent in building factories, real estate developments, power plants and mining ventures.

Tetangco noted that the FDI inflows in 2005 had exceeded the BSP's own projected level of $971 million. He said the growth in FDIs last year was boosted by the reversal of the "other capital" account—representing inter-company accounts between investee company and corresponding foreign principals—to a

FOREIGN/ B3

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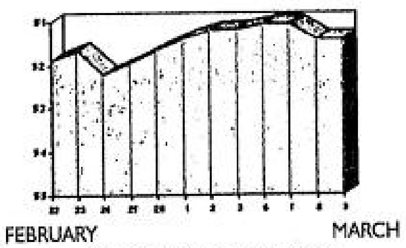

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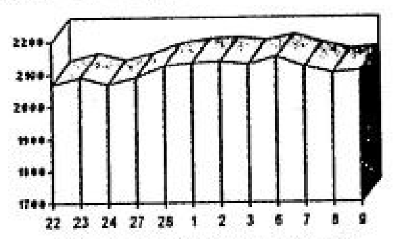

(See stock market report on Page B3)

Shares close 0.5% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 0.5 percent higher as selective bargain-hunting in blue-chips provided support after two days of losses, dealers said.

However, losses in heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) capped the market's advance, with most investors waiting on the sidelines in the absence of fresh leads, they said.

The composite index rose 10.51 points to close at the day's high of 2,109.77 after falling to a low of 2,095.32. However, the broader all-shares index fell 2.10 points to 1,024.23.

Volume was 618.4 million shares worth P869.6 million ($16.8 million). Gainers led losers 47 to 38, with 58 stocks unchanged.

AFP

RP borrowings hit P123.3B in January

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BORROWED P123.3 billion in January this year to help plug the budget deficit and service maturing obligations.

The amount was 139 percent higher than the P51.49 billion borrowed during the same month last year. But the huge difference, officials said, was due to the government's decision in January to take advantage of the low interest rates prevailing at that time, and borrow the bulk of its foreign financing requirement for the whole of 2006.

Of the January borrowings, P111.684 billion was sourced from foreign investors, while the P11.613 billion came from domestic creditors.

Foreign borrowings are made either through bond floatation or through official development assistance (ODA) provided by multilateral and bilateral financing institutions. The Philippines' biggest source of ODAs are the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Domestic borrowings come in the form of auctions of Treasury bills and bonds.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that of the external borrowings, those generated from the float of global bonds amounted to P110.534 billion. The rest of the foreign borrowings were ODAs.

Data also showed that the amount of loans the government paid in January amounted to P29.05 billion. Of the loan payments, domestic borrowings accounted for P22.33 billion while foreign obligations accounted for P6.73 billion.

The loan payments for January resulted in the government's net borrowings of P94.24 billion.

Finance officials said the government was trying to reduce its borrowings to keep its debts from ballooning. National Treasurer Omar Cruz had said that the government could afford to trim down its borrowings in the remaining months of the year because of the dwindling budget deficit.

The government's outstanding debt—the amount of accumulated obligations over the years—stood at P3.91 trillion as of November last year. The debt figure was slightly lower than the P3.95 trillion recorded the previous month because, according to the Bureau of the Treasury, the government paid more maturing obligations than it borrowed during the month. This was a result of the dwindling deficit, it added.

The DOF this year wants to reduce the budget deficit to P125 billion—much lower than last year's figure of P146.5 billion.

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German bank buys ₱13B worth of Metrobank NPAs

GERMANY-BASED HYPO-UN VEREINS BANK AG has acquired P13.2 billion worth of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.'s nonperforming assets from an asset management company.

The said assets were among those unloaded by Metrobank in 2003 to clean its books.

In a press statement yesterday, Asia Recovery Corp. said the Singapore branch of HVB, the same bank that directly bought from Metrobank P6.8 billion worth of bad assets in November last year, bought these assets through an auction held on March 8.

This means that the German bank has now bought P20 billion of bad assets unloaded by the country's biggest bank, Metrobank.

The sale by asset management firm ARC represented almost all of the asset management firm's current nonperforming loans and acquired assets inventory.

ARC president Pedro Jaminola Jr. said the auction attracted several large foreign financial and investment institutions.

ARC, which is owned by the Rabo Bank of Netherlands, acquired P16 billion worth of bad assets unloaded in 2003 by Metrobank.

Metrobank again unloaded P9.8 billion worth of nonperforming loans in 2005, of which P6.8 billion worth of bad loans were directly bought by HVB. *Doris C. Dumlao*

BSP key policy rates unchanged

Hike seen unlikely in the near term given favorable conditions

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY BOARD YESTERDAY KEPT the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' key policy rates steady, despite a spike in the February inflation.

The inflation rate in February hit an eight-month high of 7.6 percent due to the recent hike in the value-added tax rate.

In a statement after the board's policy rate-setting meeting yesterday, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the Monetary Board agreed to maintain the overnight borrowing rate at 7.5 percent and the overnight lending rate at 9.75 percent.

"Despite the immediate impact of the VAT, the February inflation rate was within the BSP's forecast range for the month and thus remains consistent with the projected path for inflation," Tetangco said.

"The latest BSP forecasts showed a decelerating trend for inflation in the second half of 2006," he said.

Tetangco said the board noted that prevailing conditions continued to provide room for the BSP to keep its policy rates steady in the near term.

He added that most improvements in consumer demand and bank lending, as well as the sustained slowdown in domestic liquidity, implied limited demand-side pressure on prices.

"Positive sentiments have also continued to strengthen the peso, providing continued stability in the domestic prices of imports," Tetangco said.

The peso yesterday closed slightly stronger at 51.40 from Wednesday's finish of 51.42 to a dollar. Volume traded at the Philippine Dealing System was still heavy at $775.8 million.

The local currency, which peaked at 51.88 earlier this week, was traded at between 51.33 and 51.605 to a dollar yesterday.

"Traders are selling dollars on every rally. The market is still bullish on the peso," said one currency trader.

Tetangco said the BSP was aware of the risks to its inflation outlook, especially as global oil prices remained high.

"A continued cost-side pressure may also lead to calls for wage increases," he said.

He added that the two-percentage hike in the VAT rate had prompted a round of one-time price increases but noted that mitigating measures should help cushion its effects on consumer prices.

'05 GDP growth seen understated

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC and Development Authority has called for the revision of the country's gross domestic product growth last year, reported at 5.1 percent, to reflect the multi-billion-peso revenue generated by the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector.

The statistics department of the Neda failed to include the BPO sector revenues in the computation of last year's GDP. The revision is seen to result in an increase in last year's GDP growth rate. Neda Director General Romulo Neri estimated that the BPO sector contributed between 0.5 and 0.6 percentage point to the 2005 GDP growth.

GDP, a measure of the economy's performance, is the value of all products and services produced domestically in a given period.

"It's unfair that we did not include the value added coming from the BPO sector because it is the most dynamic sector now," Neri told reporters. He urged the NSCB to immediately address problems related to information-gathering so the government could report a more accurate growth figure.

The NSCB finds difficulties in computing the contributions of the BPO sector to the economy because most firms belonging to the industry do not cooperate in surveys conducted by statistics personnel, Neri said.

BPO firms, he said, seemed uncomfortable in revealing their huge profits.

PNOC unit eyes deals in Australia, Argentina

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL CO.-Energy Development Corp. is currently negotiating for possible drilling contracts in Australia and Argentina.

PNOC-EDC vice president for technical services Manuel Ogena said the firm, with its team of experts, was well positioned to expand its presence in the overseas drilling market.

He said PNOC-EDC was also providing consultancy services for a proposed 55-megawatt (MW) geothermal project in Iran.

The Philippines is the world's second largest producer of geothermal energy, with an installed capacity of 1,904 MW. PNOC-EDC accounts for 60.3 percent of the total.

Its geothermal energy production in the past 30 years has helped the country displace 123.5 million barrels of imported oil, resulting in foreign exchange savings of $3.1 billion.

In 2005, its gross steam and electricity generation reached 7,227 GWh, 62.6 percent of which came from production field in Leyte.

Last year, PNOC-EDC clinched four new drilling contracts from the Lihir Management Co. (LMC) in Papua New Guinea.

"PNOC-EDC's drilling services continue to be a profitable venture for the company," PNOC-EDC president and chief executive Paul Aquino earlier said. Drilling income, he said, had been growing by 10 percent yearly.

BOC order seen as another job killer

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

LAST FEB. 20, 2006, ENVIRONment and Natural Resources Secretary Angelo Reyes indefinitely suspended Department Administrative Order 05-06. This order mandated firms to pay the unnecessary Mandatory Environment Insurance Coverage (MEIC) to only one accredited company, thus creating a monopoly. This company allegedly has more than P400 million in financial obligations now pending in court. Alyansa Agrikultura and other organizations protested that the MEIC would impose useless costs that would kill jobs. Secretary Reyes immediately acted on DAO 05-06, which was not of his own making.

Sadly, three days ago, the new Customs Administrative Order 3-2006, that falls under the same category as DAO 05-06, was circulated.

Background

CAO 3-2006 is entitled "Rules and Regulations Governing the Accreditation of Customs Brokers transacting with the Bureau of Customs and Other Purposes." It is said to support RA 9280 "regulating the practice of the customs brokers' profession in the Philippines."

Alyansa Agrikultura first heard about CAO 3-2006 on March 1 in a Makati Business Club meeting on transparency and accountability in the Bureau of Customs. Considering that farmers and fisherfolk who represent the largest sector in the economy were never consulted on this, and that any imposed useless costs would further weaken their global competitiveness and kill badly-needed jobs, Alyansa asked for two working days to study the order. It later recommended two amendments. On March 6, the Philippines Users Confederation (PUC) wrote a letter to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves supporting these amendments. The PUC has 25 member-organizations, including the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Semiconductors and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc. and Ecozone Federation of Forwarders, Brokers, Truckers Phils (Effort-Phils).

Three options

Without CAO 3-2006, our farmers, fisherfolk and food processors (as well as all other importing groups) can use three different vehicles for import transactions: Customs brokers, brokerage corporations such as DHL and FEDEX, and themselves ("own account") as the importers.

CAO 3-2006 allows only customs brokers for these import transactions. This eliminates the two other options that are less costly for the farm sector and others.

The first amendment recommended is to allow importers to continue importing articles of both personal and commercial quantities using their own accredited legal personalities. This vehicle is the cheapest alternative being used by importers.

The second amendment is to allow importers to continue using brokerage firms, including Fedex and DHL. These firms are required to have two licensed brokers in their board and to undergo a rigid screening process before BOC accreditation. In many situations, this option is less expensive and more efficient because of economies of scale.

Other considerations

In their letter to Secretary Teves supporting the two Alyansa amendments, the PUCI identified other major repercussions of the current CAO 3-2006. These were: The loss of at least 20,000 jobs and economic dislocation of some 200,000 employees; the forced closure or scaling down of operations of 800 companies, as they will be barred from doing their customs brokerage business; exporters will be forced to engage the services of individual customs brokers (not as employees but service providers) which will result in additional red tape and increased expenses, making Philippine products uncompetitive, and the order is contrary to global best practice, where other countries like the United States of America, Canada and Australia allow corporations to engage in customs brokerage business.

Conclusion

CAO 3-2006 does our people a service by making customs broker accreditation more strict, thus curbing abuses in this profession. However, without the two amendments proposed by Alyansa and supported by more than 25 organizations, two of the three available vehicles for import transactions are eliminated. It is very disappointing that barely three weeks after the order implementing the MEIC was withdrawn, a similar order was circulated imposing the same scourge on our agriculture and other sectors.

Just as the mistake was corrected for the MEIC when the senior management learned about its dire consequences, it is hoped that CAO 3-2006 will also be corrected. With these two amendments, CAO 3-2006 can be a help, rather than a hindrance, in creating the proper environment for job creation.

(The author is Agriwatch chair. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

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The project is located Rodeo Site, Maria Cristina, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte.

1. The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TransCo), through the Annual Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing board, intends to apply the sum of PHP 49,487,412.00 being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction of Mindanao System Operations Control Center Building (SP05.MSOCC.Mc-0064). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. TransCo now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for Furnishing, Installing, Constructing, Operating and Maintaining General Construction Facilities, Site Development, Construction of Two Story Office and System Operations Control Center Building (please see attached Work Scope). Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before date and time stated below at the address given below and secure the Eligibility Documents there from upon payment of non-refundable fee of stated below. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents stated below. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents. PCAB License and Registration Particular required should be as follows:

License Particular — at least Category "B", SP-General Building
Registration Particular — at least "Medium A", SP-Building & Industrial Works

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In Accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the address given below.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from TransCo and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BCMD at the address given below.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as stated below. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting from the schedule specified below.
7. TransCo will hold a Pre-Bid conference open to all Eligible Bidders on the schedule specified below.
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before the schedule of submission and opening specified below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and in amount stated in the Bidding Documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
9. The Contractor shall complete the works within Two Hundred Fifty Five (255) calendar days inclusive of fifteen (15) rainy/unworkable days counted from the effective date stated in the Notice to Proceed.
10. TransCo reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

	Activity	Date	Venue
a.	Issuance of Eligibility Documents	Starting March 09, 2006 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BCMD office address below
b.	Submission & Opening of Eligibility Documents	March 28, 2006 9:00 AM	De La Paz Function Room Training Center Bldg., TransCo, Diliman Quezon City
c.	Issuance of Bidding Documents	Starting April 20, 2006 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BCMD office address below
d.	Pre-Bid Conference	May 11, 2006, 1:30 PM	BCMD office address below
f	Bid Submission & Opening	May 31, 2006, 9:00 AM	BCMD office address below
	Cost of Eligibility Documents per copy		P 800.00
	Cost of Bidding Documents per copy		P 7,000.00

Mr. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department (BCMD)
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104
Telephone Nos.: 981-2308; 981-2212; 981-2213
Facsimile No.: 921-2308
Email Address: jmilagan@transco.ph
Website Address: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
VP – Luzon Operation & Maintenance
& Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – March 10 & 21, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
ALABANG – STO. TOMAS DEVELOPMENT INC.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Alabang – Sto. Tomas Development Inc. (ASDI), through the Philippine Infrastructure Corporation (PIC) – Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) per Republic Act No. 9184, invites local and/or foreign consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the project hereunder:

Name of Project	Consultancy Services for the Preparation of Detailed Engineering Design for the Daang Hari – SLEX Link Road Project
Brief Description	The Daang Hari – SLEX Link Road Project is a proposed toll road, with an approximate length of 3.68 km., that would link the existing Daang Hari in Bacoor, Cavite and the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) near the Susana Heights Interchange. The Detailed Engineering Design for the Project shall include, but not be limited to, the following: validation of initial survey works and preliminary design, preparation of cost estimates and generation of construction drawings, preparation of technical reports and tender documents for the EPC contract. The consultancy team shall include, but not be limited to, the following **Key Staff**: Project Manager/Team Leader, Highway Engineer, Toll Collection System & Toll Operations Specialist, Correction/Prison Facility Design Specialist, **Other Key Staff**: Bridge/Structural Engineers, Hydrologist/Drainage Engineer, Geotechnical Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Traffic Engineer, Geologist/Seismic Expert, IT Specialist, Materials/Pavement Engineer, Geodetic Engineer, Contracts Engineer/Document Specialist, Cost Engineer and Specifications Engineer. **To be eligible to participate in this bidding, the Consultant must have experience in the preparation of Detailed Engineering Design for a Toll Road Project.**
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	PHP16,000,000.00 Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected.
Source of Funding	Alabang – Sto. Tomas Development, Inc. Corporate Funds
Contract Duration	90 calendar days

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Pre-qualification Information and Consultant's Eligibility Forms. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant(s), qualification of personnel who may be assigned for consulting services and job capacity. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE). The technical and financial proposals shall be given corresponding weights with the technical proposals given a weight of 90% and financial proposals given a weight of 10%. Their total weighted percentage shall be equal to 100%. The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract including its implementation shall apply.

The Pre-qualification Information and Consultant's Eligibility Forms will be available at the PIC Office, 7/F Adamson Centre, L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines. Tel. Nos.: 812-3023, 812-3810 and Fax No.: 892-6143 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php2,000 to the Philippine Infrastructure Corporation. Deadline for submission of the letter of intent and eligibility documents shall be on **March 22, 2006, 12:00 noon.** Late submission will not be entertained.

Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php20,000 to the Philippine Infrastructure Corporation.

The ASDI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or any formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any consultant/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to the ASDI and the Government. Furthermore, the ASDI assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ANGELITO G. RAMOS
PIC-SBAC Chairman

(PDI–March 10 & 17, 2006)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

Section I. Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Various Information and Communication Technology Equipment
(Reference No.: PB051006-EL0098 (PB2)

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board* intends to apply the sum of ***Php 3,053,000.00*** being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Various Information and Communication Technology Equipment.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Various ICTs.* Delivery of the GOODS is required *within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A.138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting **March 9, 2006 to April 17, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).*** The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **March 28, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.** at the same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 P.m. of April 18, 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	1% of ABC
2. Bank guarantee	1.5% of ABC
3. Surety bond	2.5% of ABC
4. Foreign government guarantee	100% of ABC

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on **April 18, 2006 / 2:00 P.M.** at the *Admin Conference Room, same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812235 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – March 10 & 17, 2006)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 9, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		FINANCIAL			
		BANKS			
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	8,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35.5	35.5	34.5	34.5	117,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	60	59	60	829,500
China Banking Corp.	680	685	680	680	770
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.4	0.41	5,370,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	63.5	65	63.5	65	219,700
International Exch. Bank	25	25	25	25	42,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35.5	38	35.5	38	3,177,700
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	3,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	37	38	37	38	17,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	9,200
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS			
Bankard Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	20,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	24	24	24	24	3,100
Manulife Financial Corp.	3260	3260	3260	3260	400
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2200	2200	2200	2200	40
Ivantage Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	960,000
		INDUSTRIAL			
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER			
First Gen Corp.	45	45	44.5	45	17,700
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	42	41.5	42	92,500
Manila Electric Co. A	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	44,200
Manila Electric Co. B	19.75	19.75	19.25	19.25	84,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	1,021,000
Petron Corp.	4.45	4.55	4.45	4.55	1,490,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	320,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO			
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	5,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.25	48,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	35.5	34.5	35.5	119,900
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	192,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	61	61.5	61	61.5	75,300
San Miguel Corp. B	79.5	80	78.5	79.5	133,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.75	1,885,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	920,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES			
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.3	0.27	0.3	5,450,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.22	1,993,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	20,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.15	2,188,000
		CHEMICALS			
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	110,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS			
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.0725	0.0675	0.0675	6,800,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.075	0.07	0.075	10,500,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	1,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.69	0.71	0.63	0.63	2,590,000
		HOLDING FIRMS			
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	18,000,000
Ayala Corp.	332.5	340	332.5	340	45,490
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.52	1,460,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	698,000
Ajo.Net Holdings, Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	12,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.46	2.48	2.46	2.46	9,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.23	2,040,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.88	630,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	1,730,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3	3	255,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.04	2.08	2.04	2.08	851,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	1,291,000
Medco Holdings	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,130,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.185	0.21	0.185	0.21	1,600,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.37	0.32	0.33	2,250,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.245	0.26	0.245	0.25	9,210,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	6,200,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	220	215	215	142,910
South China Resources Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	30,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	1,300,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.135	0.125	0.13	11,300,000
		PROPERTY			
Ayala Land Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.25	10.5	5,376,800
Belle Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.95	0.96	530,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.95	160,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,170,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.72	3,532,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	53,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.9	0.95	0.9	0.95	170,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	1,500,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.45	780,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	2,000,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.16	1.2	5,180,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	5,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	800,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	380,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.44	5,433,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	2,090,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.4	0.42	12,290,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.145	200,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	1,010,000
SM Development Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	47,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.6	11,794,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	890,000
		SERVICE			
		MEDIA			
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	120,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS			
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.89	2,280,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	810	815	810	815	55,410
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	1,165,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1820	1820	1810	1815	136,810
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
Boulevard Holdings, Inc.	0.19	0.205	0.19	0.19	16,840,000
Imperial Res	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.26	40,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.049	0.0525	600,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
Philweb Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.026	77,000,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES			
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	14,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	361,100
Keppel Phils Marine, Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	370,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.28	1.38	1.28	1.38	57,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE			
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	581,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	125,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	500,000
		EDUCATION			
Centro Escolar University	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	5,000
Far Eastern University	600	600	600	600	7,440
Ipeople Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	1,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES			
Macroasia Corp.	1.4	1.44	1.38	1.44	193,000
Paxys Inc.	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.5	920,000
		MINING & OIL			
		MINING			
Apex Mining Co., Inc.B	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.8	243,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	230,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.245	2,780,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	21,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.024	9,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	49,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.72	1,133,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.84	1.88	1.84	1.88	4,720,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	27	26	26.5	23,100
Vulcan Ind'l	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.32	600,000
		OIL			
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	1,810,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	156,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	69,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	160,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	20,000
		PREFERRED			
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	2,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	2,000
		WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.			
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	305,600

CURRENCIES

March 9, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.838504	1.000000	51.3130
Japan	Yen	0.007118	0.008489	0.4356
United Kingdom	Pound	1.457907	1.738700	89.2179
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108042	0.128851	6.6117
Switzerland	Franc	0.640862	0.764292	39.2181
Canada	Dollar	0.724973	0.864603	44.3654
Singapore	Dollar	0.513884	0.612858	31.4476
Australia	Dollar	0.614019	0.732279	37.5754
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.224975	2.653505	136.1593
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223596	0.266660	13.6831
Brunei	Dollar	0.512314	0.610986	31.3515
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000108	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021429	0.025556	1.3114
UAE	Dirham	0.228314	0.272287	13.9719
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.192600	61.1959
Argentina	Peso	0.272021	0.324412	16.6466
Brazil	Real	0.384582	0.458652	23.5348
Denmark	Kroner	0.134066	0.159887	8.2043
India	Rupee	0.018902	0.022543	1.1567
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225526	0.268962	13.8012
Mexico	New Peso	0.078241	0.093310	4.7880
New Zealand	Dollar	0.543671	0.648382	33.2704
South Africa	Rand	0.132859	0.158448	8.1304
Korea	Won	0.000854	0.001019	0.0523
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025811	0.030782	1.5795

Foreign direct . . .

From page B1

net inflow amounting to $111 million.

The FDI record was based on the country's balance of payments as tabulated by the BSP, measuring actual flows that came in during the reference period as opposed to mere investment pledges.

This year, the expected privatization of state-owned power plants is also seen to attract more direct investments.

McKinley mutiny quashed

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

LIKE THE SHORT-LIVED WEEKend uproar in neighboring Fort Bonifacio, the sporadic mutinies of McKinley Road residents have been effectively quashed by the ruling elite.

According to the grapevine, the Forbes Park Association, through the Siguion Reyna law firm, has sent a team anew to the Makati Regional Trial Court to inventory cases filed by McKinley residents who ex-parte sought and even managed to have sympathetic judges lift the deed of restrictions on their McKinley property titles.

In any case, Forbes Park thinks the Makati RTC victories of a number of McKinley residents, including Marcos son-in-law Gregorio Araneta III and the Syjuco family, are short-lived and would later be annulled by the higher courts.

Why? Because of "extrinsic fraud" and an uncontested Court of Appeals decision—already a *res judicata*, according to Siguion Reyna lawyers Cesar Manalaysay and German "Beetle" Lichauco—affirming an HIGC ruling extending the Forbes Park deed of restrictions up to end-2023.

At the latest count, the Forbes Park Association, incidentally headed now by a lawyer, Sylvia

COCKTALES/B5

PRULINK | **PRU LIFE U.K.**

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Mar. 07, 2006	Last Week Feb. 28, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.39694	1.39233
Managed Fund - Peso	1.51419	1.51093
Growth Fund - Peso	1.14925	1.15095
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2359	1.2430

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure

UNIT PRICES (in Php)	March 6, 2006	Feb. 27, 2006
Fixed Income Fund	1.131095	1.124816
Balanced Fund	1.121339	1.109281
Equity Fund	1.100578	1.074966

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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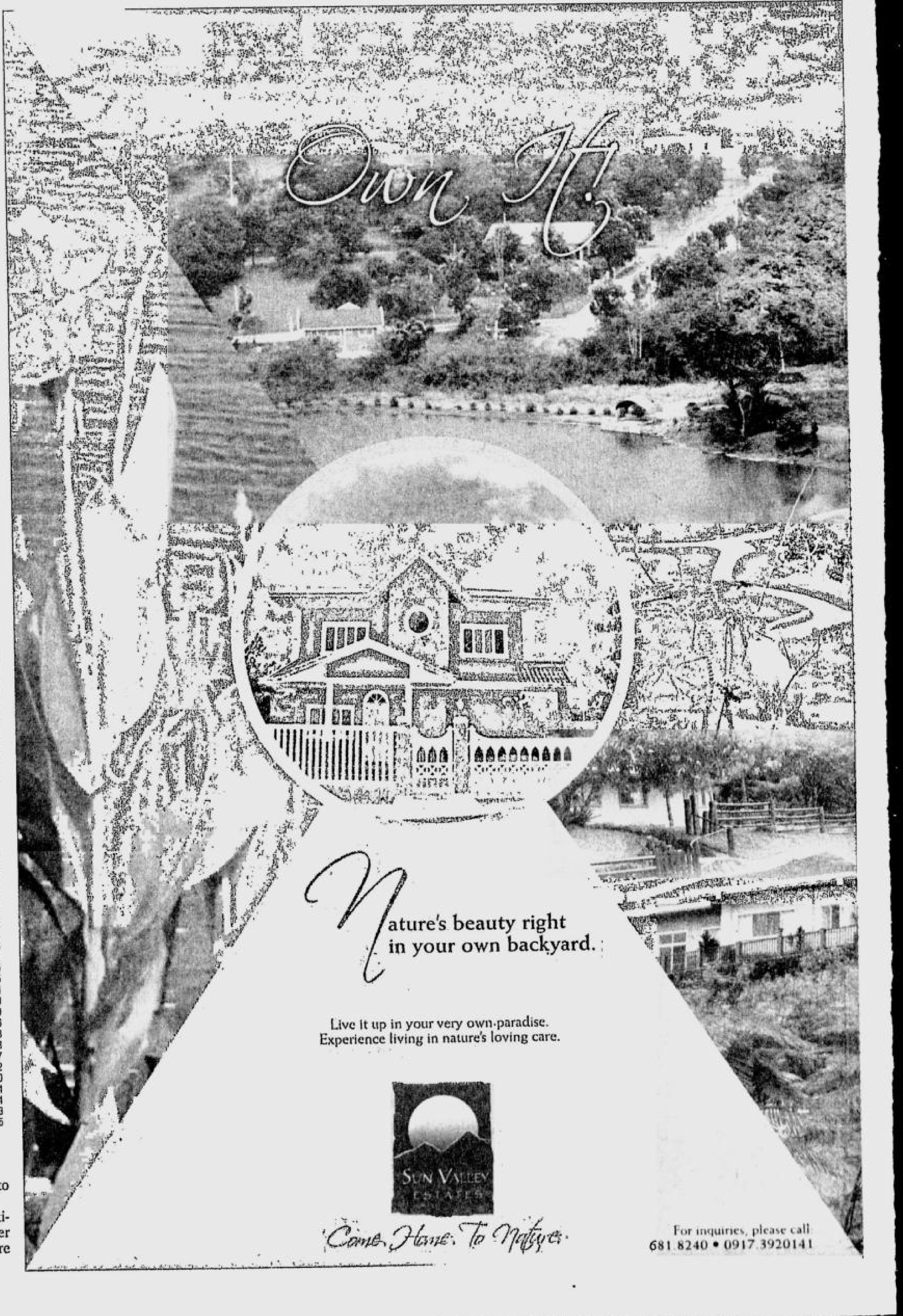
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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that MA. ROSE VIRGINIE TAURO VILLACARLOS has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from MARIA-ROSE VIRGIE to MA. ROSE VIRGINIE in the birth certificate of MARIA-ROSE VIRGIE TALEON TAURO and whose parents are SANTIAGO TAURO and LEONILA TALEON.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than 27 March 2006.

(Sgd.) **ELISEO T. TULIVA**
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI--March 10 & 17, 2006)

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SEC Building, EDSA Greenhills
Mandaluyong City
CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Republic of the Philippines
Securities and Exchange Commission
Metro Manila

IN THE MATTER OF THE
REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES
LEXBER INCORPORATED
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on September 15, 2005, a registration statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of LEXBER INCORPORATED to cover 1,020 Non-Proprietary Timeshares of Lexber Homes Beachworld Resort (the Project) with an offer price enumerated as follows.

Number of Shares Offered	Unit Price	Offering
Red 500	200	P 225,000
	150	265,000
	150	295,000
White 200	66	175,000
	66	200,000
	68	220,000
Blue 260	68	145,000
	68	165,000
	68	195,000

The total estimated gross proceeds from the offering amount to Two Hundred Twenty Four Million Six Hundred Seventy Thousand Pesos (P224,670,000.00).

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation:

NAME	POSITION
ALEJANDRO G. CRUZ-HERRERA	Chairman and CEO
BERNARDITA R. CRUZ-HERRERA	Director & Corp. Secretary
ELPIDIO Y. CUSTODIO	Director/Asst. Corp. Secretary
MANUEL R. TOLONE	Director/Assistant Treasurer
ALEXIS R. CRUZ-HERRERA	Principal Operating Officer/Comptroller
RODERICK P. BAYBAYAN	Principal Accounting Officer
ANITA L. MACUTO	Principal Treasury Officer

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI – March 10, 2006)

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- Computer literate
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- With minimum experience as a recruitment officer in a manning agency.

Interested applicants can bring their pertinent documents and apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at:

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Suite 1208-A Ermita Center Bldg.
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The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Jesse Rebustillo, the Head of Classified Ads Division of Philippine Daily Inquirer. He is a frequent resource speaker on supervision and leadership.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information/reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

NFA intensifies monitoring of government rice in markets

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) regional director Benjamin B. Marta informed that the agency is heightening its efforts in monitoring the supply and prices of NFA rice which is pegged at P18 per kg nationwide. To assure stability and availability of the basic staple, Marta said that the agency regularly deploys its enforcement team to check on supply and price trends. Likewise, movement of NFA rice is closely monitored so that the commodity reaches its target beneficiaries, not diverted and tagged as commercial rice. While Marta admits that eliminating diversion of NFA stocks and other malpractice in the grains business is one of the responsibilities of the agency, the public can contribute much to help prevent such violations by being vigilant. Marta further said that those caught with these offenses will have to pay administrative fines or will face cancellation of their license depending on the number of times the violation has been committed.

Meanwhile, the NFA director said that the local NFA is still awaiting the arrival of its allocation of NFA Iron-Fortified Rice (IFR). He informed that the agency's importation of IFR from Vietnam is part of its compliance with the Food Fortification Program under Republic Act 8976 which requires rice and other food items to be supplemented with Vitamin A, iron or other nutrients.

OBITUARIES

Maria Evangelista Cua

March 25, 1919 - March 08, 2006

Her bereaved children:

Cong. Junie & Mary Cua
Lai Tung & Gue Hwa
Tessie (†) & Noy Coting
Luz & Manny Brillo
Jimmy (†) & Edna Cua
July & Rosanna Evangelista
Belen & Frisco Ang
Benjie & Pat Cua

Brother, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Inc. Chapel Superior, G. Araneta, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 12, 2006 at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery, Pasig City after the 8:30 a.m. service.

PRESENTACION "CIONNIE" GAERLAN vda. de MANECLANG

Has gone home to her Creator on March 07, 2006 at the age of 76.

*She is survived by her sisters: **Paz, Charing, Carmen**; children: **Estrella & Wimpit, Mark & Winnie, Tess & Emier, Grace & Peter, Bambi & Boots** and **Angel**; grandchildren: **PJ & Monie, Mira & Shane, Rona, JC, Asti & Rob, Arief, Sarah, Doreen & Rey, Mike, Kevin, Jess, David**; great grandchildren: **Guna, Gav, Zoe, Iggy, Izzy, Jonas, Meggie, James & Rocio.***

Her remains lie in state at the De Luxe Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 12, 2006 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels.

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MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

RONALD DOMINGUEZ CABE

(1943 – 2006)

Passed away in the Grace of the Almighty on February 25, 2006 at the age of 63 in Laoag City.

His loving daughter, **Elaine Cabe-Alcid**, his brothers **Adam** and **Peter**, his sister **Janet**, his son-in-law, **Richard Alcid**, nephews and nieces wish to express their gratitude to those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and mass cards, extended assistance and condoled with them during their time of bereavement.

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More Classified Ads on pages A4, A18, A23, B2, B5 & B2-2

Telcos top in profit, SEC says

Smart, PLDT lead list of most profitable firms of 2004

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIRMS were the most profitable companies in 2004 with mobile phone company Smart Communications Inc. recording the highest profit of P19.7 billion, according to the ranking of top 5,000 corporations by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Smart was followed by telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. with P17.7 billion, Bayan Telecommunications Inc. (P14.3 billion) and Bayan Telecommunications Holdings Corp. (P14 billion) of the Lopez group and the Ayala group's Globe Telecom Inc., which ended 2004 with a profit of P11.2 billion.

Completing the list of the top 10 most profitable companies were power generator Mirant (Philippines) Corp., P10.8 billion; Pilipino Telephone Corp., P9.7 billion; Mirant Sual Corp., P7.7 billion; Bank of the Philippine Islands, P6.7 billion and Nestle Philippines Inc., P6.1 billion.

On the other hand, the top losers in 2004 were Manila Electric Co., Maynilad Water Services Inc., Philips Semiconductors Philippines Inc., Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc., Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc., JG Summit Petrochemical Corp., Caltex (Phils) Inc., CKU Steel Corp., Radix Communications and Takenaka Corp.

Among the conglomerates, San Miguel Corp., Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm, emerged as the leader in terms of revenues in 2004, the report said.

The Top 5,000 Corporations 2005 edition released this week showed that San Miguel registered P176 billion in revenues in 2004.

In second place was Gokongweiled JG Summit Holdings Inc. which posted P64.6 billion in revenues. Ranked third was SM Investments Inc. of mall tycoon Henry Sy, with revenues of P44.5 billion.

Next were Ayala Corp., P43.7 billion; Equitable PCI Bank, P24.15 billion; Lopez-owned Benpres Holdings Corp.; P21.7 billion; RFM Corp. of the Concepcion family, P6.2 billion; Metro Pacific Corp., P4.7 billion; and A. Soriano Corp., P2.8 billion.

The SEC with CIBI Information Inc. ranked the country's 5,000 companies based on audited financial statements for fiscal year ending June 30, 2004 to March 31, 2005.

Conglomerates are ranked separately from their member companies.

In terms of gross sales in 2004, TI Philippines Inc., an affiliate of Texas Instruments, kept its hold over the number one spot with gross sales of P158.6 billion in 2004.

Power distributor Manila Electric Co. climbed to second place with total sales at P148.3 billion. Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. marched to third place with P126.9 billion.

Cocktales

From page B3

Lopez Alejandro, had filed four cases at the Court of Appeals against four McKinley property owners who had sneaked past the Forbes Park RTC watch. The lifting of restrictions would have allowed the McKinley property owners—numbering from 36 to as high as 54, depending on who is counting—to convert their sprawling residences into boutiques and low-traffic shops, offices and even nursery schools, just what their Paseo de Roxas counterparts in Urdaneta Village have done.

Because of the deed-and-height restrictions and the worsening traffic, property prices in the McKinley corridor have languished in the P30,000 per-square-meter level, against the average asking of P40,000 per sqm inside Forbes.

Mariana resistance

OVER at Quezon City's New Manila district, the Mariana Neighborhood Association is resisting a City Hall-inspired move to rename the Gilmore-Granada Road after a recently departed resident, Supreme Court Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma.

The late justice's son, Tadeo Palma, who happens to be the secretary to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, is apparently spearheading the name change from within to remove the "colonial" overhang on the disputed street. Following the young Palma's logic, the country should therefore discard the Spanish king-derived "Philippines" for a more nationalistic nomenclature, said Mariana Neighborhood chair Mario Jalandoni.

If Palma had his way, what would prevent the descendants of the late President Manuel L. Quezon, Vice Presidents Emmanuel Pelaez and Teofisto Guingona, Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and similar famous residents from seeking similar street name changes? Jalandoni asked.

Bartolome bounces back

THE FIRST chair/president of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, Arsenio Bartolome III, has been resurrected and named "executive coordinator" by Trade Secretary Peter Favila not only for BCDA and its subsidiaries but also for the Clark, Poro Point and John Hay projects as well as for Bataan Technology Park.

According to the grapevine, the exbanker would also get to attend the board meetings of the different government corporations, effectively becoming Favila's eyes and ears on key tourism/real estate-and export-related projects in the various zones.

Heard through the grapevine

A NUMBER of steadfast Blue Ladies of Ms Imelda Marcos led by "BL" have met to share bouncing checks and other horror/sob stories allegedly foisted on them for years now by their colleague "EC."

Apparently, the BL-led group counts on Madrigal heiress Ising Vasquez to support their claims if and when they go public.

(Email: . cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 16
ROXAS CITY

Land Reg. Case No. N-57-05 LRA Record No. N-77494

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; the Director, Land Management Bureau, Escolta, Manila; the Regional Executive Director, Region VI-DENR, Iloilo City; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila; the Director, Bureau of Mines, Pedro Gil St., Malate, the Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, P.O. Box 623, both in Manila; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, PTA Bldg. Elliptical Road, Diliman, the Director, Forest Management Bureau, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, both in Quezon City, Metro Manila; the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Prosecutor, the General Services Officer, the Provincial Engineer, the Public Works and Highways District Engineer; the CENR Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector, all in Roxas City, Capiz, the Municipal Mayor, the Municipal Council, Ivisan, Capiz, Feliza Orola, Barangay Poblacion, Ivisan, Capiz, Municipal Government of Ivisan, Capiz, **AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**:

An application having been filed in the above entitled case by **HERMOGENES UMITEN**, widower; **PRISCILLA N. ZARCO**, married to Carlos Zarco, represented by Bonifacio Nagayo; **JULIA NAGAYO**, married to Ernesto Abillar; **BONIFACIO NAGAYO**, married to Jean Adelaida R. Nagayo; **RIZALITA NAGAYO**, married to Juan, Abaygar, represented by Bonifacio Nagayo, all of Barangay Poblacion, Ivisan, Capiz, assisted by Atty. Antonio A. Bisnar, Mckinley St., Roxas City, praying for the registration and confirmation of the title to the following described land:

A parcel of land (Plan of Land Psu-06-001580), situated in the Barangay of Poblacion, Municipality of Ivisan, Province of Capiz, Island of Panay. Bounded on the SW., along line 1-2 by lot 128, along point 2 by lot 129, both of Ivisan Cadastre, on the NW., along line 2-3 property claimed by Feliza Orola; on the NE., along line 3-4 by Ivisan River (20.00 m. wide), on the SE., along line 4-5 claimed by the Municipal Government of Ivisan, on the SW., along line 5-1 by Calle Washington & Calle Mabini. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being, S. 03 deg. 09'W., 80.34 m. from BLLM No. 2, Ivisan Cad. 228,

thence N. 37 deg. 44'W., 30.83 m. to point 2;
thence N. 49 deg. 29'E., 10.88 m. to point 3;
thence S. 45 deg. 34'E., 43.62 m. to point 4;
thence S. 51 deg. 25'W., 15.75 m. to point 5;
thence N. 42 deg. 45'W., 12.14 m. to the point of

beginning; containing an area of **FIVE HUNDRED NINETY ONE (591) SQUARE METERS**. All corners referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by P.S. cyl. conc. mons 15 x 40 cmS. Bearings: true, surveyed by Engineer Allen C. De Martin on August 28, 2004 and was approved on March 29, 2005.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at its session to be held at the **Regional Trial Court, Branch 16, Roxas City, Capiz, Philippines on the 10th day of May, 2006 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning**, then and there to present such claim as you may have to said land or any portion thereof, and to submit evidence in support of such claim and unless you appear in court at same time and place aforesaid, your default will be recorded and the title to the land will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the court and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness: the **HON. DELANO F. VILLARRUZ**, Judge of said Court, the 12th day of September, 2005.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 16th day of January, 2006.

ATTEST:

(Sgd.) **BENEDICTO B. ULEP**
Administrator
Land Registration Authority

By:

(Sgd.) **SALVADOR L. ORIEL**
Chief, Docket Division

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

(Sgd.) **GLORIETA P. LACAMBRA**
Chief, Publication of Notices Section

(PDI–March 10, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Cagayan Valley Medical Center
Regional Tertiary, Teaching and Training Hospital
Carig, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan
Tel. No. 844-1410 or 1810

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
Cagayan Valley Medical Center
Delivery & Supply of Drugs and Medicines

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC), through the GOP and Hospital Income intends to apply the sum of forty seven (47) million being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Delivery & Supply of Drugs and Medicines. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Delivery and Supply of Drugs and Medicines. Delivery of the GOODS is required by the second quarter of 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass-fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00AM to 5.00PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of two thousand pesos (P2,000.00).

The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 16, 2006, 9:00AM at the Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) Conference Hall.

Bid and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before March 28, 2006, 9.00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on March 28, 2006, 9:00 AM at the CVMC Conference Hall. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

Issuance of Bid Documents will be from March 20 to 24, 2006.

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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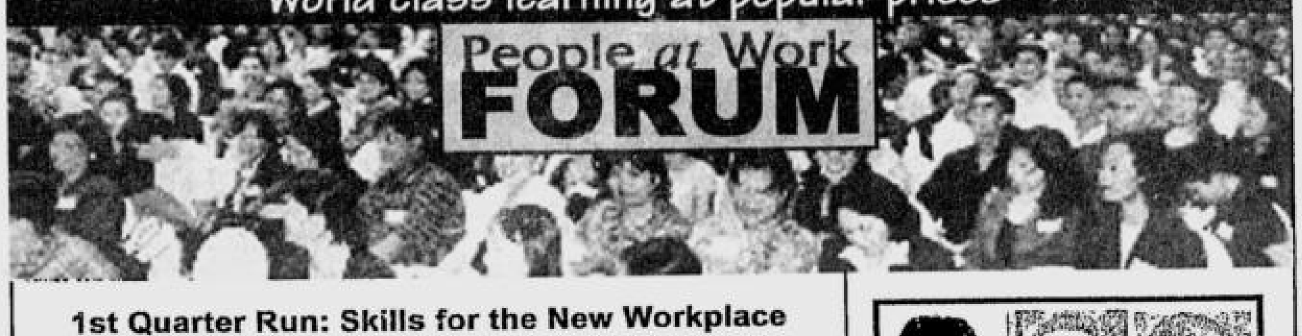

1st Quarter Run: Skills for the New Workplace
TIME: 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
VENUE: Francisco Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City

March 28, 2006 (Tuesday)
Unleashing the Power of Passion in Work and Life
TITA DATU PUANGCO, President, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc.
Passion is what gives shape and substance to our dreams in life and at work. We all can wield the power of passion to help us achieve our goals at work and in life. How do we unleash this power? Ms. Puangco will show us how we can tap into our innermost stengths to allow passion into our lives. In so doing, we are able to live up to our fullest potential as human beings.

March 29, 2006 (Wednesday)
Mastering Effective Face-to-Face Communication at Work
JOSEFINA O. SANTAMARIA, President, Career Systems, Inc.
As e-mail, instant messaging and other electronic means of communication become common at work, the opportunities afforded by face-to-face communication have never been more important. This session will show you how to speak directly and confidently, assert yourself in uncomfortable situations, and offer constructive criticism. Learn also how to use the speaking word more effectively, influence listeners, convey confidence with body language and avoid misunderstanding.

March 30, 2006 (Thursday)
Managing Differences 360 Degrees
ERNIE O. CECILIA, President, EC Business Solutions and Career Center
There will always be differences in personalities, ideas, perceptions and in many other areas mong people. Working in organizations means that one has to work well with others. This session will give you a guide to managing differences with people from all levels in the organization such as your bosses, subordinates, colleagues and other people who support your company like suppliers, customers and other stakeholders. This skill may be the thin line which divides the survivors and the castaways in the organization.

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2006 Schedule
2nd Quarter Run: Bob Rosner Back In Manila! (To be confirmed) May 25 A.M. - Reporting. the Seven Deadly Workplace Sins, P.M. - 6 Essential To - Do's To Be More Effective At Work
3rd Quarter Run: Tools for the New Workplace July 26 - Knowledge Management. Turning Knowledge Into Organizational Wisdom, July 27 - Using Heart for Successful Change Efforts; July 28 - Strategic Alliance Building. Collaborating With Your Competitors and Winning
4th Quarter Run: Breakthrough Thinking for the New Workplace Nov. 15 - Grab All The Market All The Time, Nov 16 - Applying Creative Thinking for Workplace Challenges, Nov.17 - Making Innovations Happen In Your Company

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UA&P ASSESSMENT

RP growth not fast enough

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY IS NOT growing fast enough to reduce poverty.

This was the assessment made by the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), which said the government should exert extra effort, such as increasing its spending on infrastructure, for economic growth to benefit the poor.

UA&P economist Bernardo Villegas said in a briefing yesterday that the Philippine economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, had to grow between 7 and 9 percent to make the poor feel the impact of what the government claims to be an improving economy.

The government had reported that the Philippine economy grew by 5.1 percent last year.

"You need a bigger margin so that there will be a trickle-down effect to the grassroots. You need more revenues that will go directly to poverty eradication," Villegas said.

The Arroyo administration also credits itself with the strengthening of the peso and improved outlook by credit rating agencies.

Villegas, however, said these developments were something the poor could not appreciate because they do not feel their impact.

According to a report by the Asian Development Bank last year, the number of poor Filipino families rose to 10 percent from 1997 to 2000.

The ADB study said poverty incidence in the Philippines stood at 45.4 percent in 2000, representing 6.9 million families.

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ROUND-UP

DoCoMo buys into PLDT

JAPANESE FIRM NTT DOCOMO INC. HAS OFFIcially acquired a seat on the board of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), paving the way for greater technological cooperation between the two telecommunications giants.

NTT DoCoMo bought its stake from its sister firm, NTT Communications Inc., which held 14 percent of PLDT's total outstanding shares before the transaction.

Earlier, PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said the company hoped to leverage NTT DoCoMo's expertise in third-generation (3G) mobile telecommunications technology for its own foray into 3G services.

PLDT is counting on 3G services to augment—and eventually supplant—its existing wireless communications services, which market watchers believe is close to exhausting its potential in the local market.

PLDT spokesperson Ramon Isberto confirmed the completion of the transaction.

"This is the execution of the agreement announced earlier," he said, referring to the memorandum of agreement that was sealed between both parties earlier this year.

The transfer of shares was made through a block sale of 12.63 million PLDT shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange on Thursday morning, executed at an average price of P1,824.86 apiece.

The transaction failed to excite the market, however, as PLDT stocks ended the trading session lower by P15 at P1,815 per share. A total of P248.3 million worth of the company's stock changed hands. *Daxim L. Lucas*

Aberdeen buys 9.6% of ALI

SINGAPORE-BASED fund manager Aberdeen Asset Management Asia Ltd. has acquired 9.65 percent of property giant Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), Aberdeen director Low Hon-Yu told the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) yesterday.

Aberdeen bought ALI shares at between P9.98 and P11.17 a share. ALI closed at P10.50 yesterday.

Aside from ALI, Aberdeen also owns 5.4 percent of ALI's 47-percent owned property unit, Cebu Holdings Inc.

Aberdeen Asset Management Asia Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Aberdeen Asset Management PLC.

The firm manages funds from institutions, other asset managers, government and related bodies, as well as retail investors in the Asia Pacific region. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Philip Morris sees more sales

CIGARETTE manufacturer Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. anticipates a 34-percent growth in sales this year despite the limited supply of quality tobacco and the shrinking market.

Philip Morris Philippines managing director Chris Nelson said in an interview that the company may sell about 32 to 34 billion sticks of cigarettes this year in the local and international markets, from 24 billion sticks in 2005.

He said the sales growth would rely on the expansion of the marketing force and the strengthening the distribution network in the provinces.

Moreover, Philip Morris Philippines will continuously export manufactured cigarettes to Thailand and semi-processed tobacco leaves to Korea.

The company is also exporting Isabela tobacco leaves to other affiliates, such as Philip Morris Holland and Russia.

Philip Morris Philippines Inc., the local manufacturer and seller of brands Marlboro, Philip Morris, L&M, Stork, Miller and Bowling Gold, corners a fourth of the P120- billion local cigarette market. *Christine A. Gaylican*

IT firm to spend P150M

TOTAL Information Management (TIM) Corp., a 20-year-old information technology solutions provider, is spending more than P150 million for new technology-related ventures this year.

In a press briefing, TIM Corp. president Jose Mari Antunez said possible growth areas include the printing services industry and outsourcing.

TIM Corp. has formed a new company, Versaprint, to handle colored printing jobs.

TIM Corp. and its partners are investing $3 million to $4 million in this firm.

In terms of outsourcing services, TIM Corp. will offer remote desktop management or assistance for any personal computers connected to a network anywhere.

Established in 1985, initially as a supplier of refurbished IBM mainframes and other hardware, TIM Corp. has grown into a technology services company that provides a full range of solutions for the IT needs of many companies.

It posted sales of P600 million last year, which the company hopes to raise by 25 percent this year. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

BUSINESS *Friday*

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

All work, no play make stressed entrepreneurs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ALL WORK AND very little play make stressed out entrepreneurs, but how sustainable are long holidays?

Ben Punongbayan, chair and chief executive of consultancy firm Punongbayan and Araullo, wonders at the results of the latest International Business Owners Survey.

But he is sure of one thing—rising stress levels among entrepreneurs are like a double-edged sword—it could mean an economic downturn or a period of growth.

"Executives feel the stress whether economic activity is picking up or slowing down in their respective countries," Punongbayan says. "They fell the pressure of generating business amid a slump as well as of having to cope with fast growing businesses and markets."

P&A is the local partner of Grant Thornton International, which conducted the 2006 IBOS conducted in the fourth quarter of 2005.

The poll covered 7,000 business leaders from 30 economies in Asia, North America, Europe, Africa and Australia/Oceania.

Findings showed that business owners in the region took the shortest holidays on the average and also reported the greatest increases in stress levels.

Filipino entrepreneurs are the third most-stressed among their peers worldwide after those from Taiwan and China.

On a global average, 57 percent reported increased stress levels compared to 39 percent a year ago.

Filipino respondents said 76 percent of them were more stressed in the past year compared to just about 53 percent recorded in the past poll.

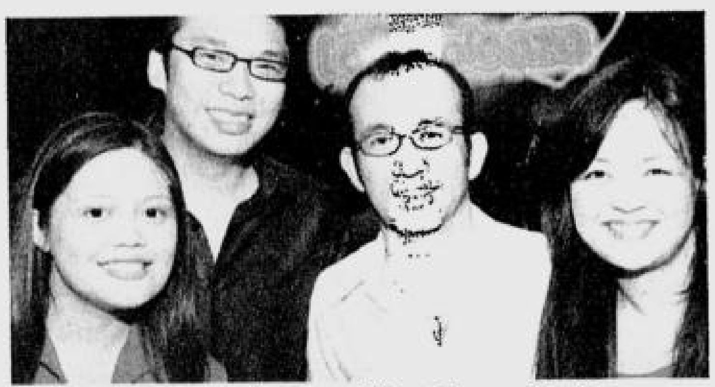
The top 10 economies that reported greater stress levels were mostly Asian, but includes Botswana, South Africa and Greece.

For the second straight year, Taiwanese business owners suffered the worst, with 89 percent reporting an increase in stress. Those from China came second at 87 percent.

Among those polled, the least agitated were business owners from Sweden with only 24 percent complaining.

European entrepreneurs were relatively relaxed with those from Italy, Spain, France, the United Kingdom and the The Netherlands reporting an increase of

ALL WORK/ B2-2



UNILEVER's Patricia Cordeno, Gilbert Simpao, Noel Lorenzana and Anna Fernandez

Hygiene is big business in RP

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

POVERTY LEVELS IN THE Philippines may be high but cleanliness levels are higher compared with other countries.

For starters, most Filipinos, rich or poor, take a bath at least once a day, unlike some of their counterparts in the Western countries who do not deem it necessary to wash daily.

Second, toothpaste penetration or the percentage of Filipinos who brush their teeth is at a high 99 percent. And Filipinos, even the poor, do not mind paying a higher price for their toothpaste.

This is the observation of Noel C. Lorenzana, managing director for home and personal care of Unilever, makers of Sunsilk, Surf, Camay and CloseUp among others.

"Filipinos go for the premium brands [for toothpaste] even if cheaper ones are available. The poor give premium to brand quality [which they associate with the known brands]," notes Lorenzana.

The top three brands in the country are Colgate, CloseUp and Hapee toothpaste.

Lorenzana admits CloseUp is still in the No. 2 spot but points out it has already made great strides in grabbing market share from the leader.

He says the toothpaste market is a big enough market in the Philippines and one does not have to be in the No. 1 spot to make the profits. The toothpaste market is estimated at P5 billion a year. This is the same amount Filipinos spend for body soap.

When CloseUp was introduced in the US in 1972, it focused on the youth who wants to be different. As Lorenzana points out, it was for the young kids who did not want to use their parents' toothtpaste.

It was introduced in the Philippine market in 1974 and did it via CloseUp couples.

HYGIENE/ B2-2

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Two Chinese who brought vases to Baguio

WAN JUN, proprietor of a small outlet for genuine Chinese porcelain imported from Jingdezhen province. The shop at the Cooyesan Hotel is often overlooked by tourists. EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE COUNTRY'S summer destination celebrated the 11th Panagbenga or Baguio Flower Festival but what are flowers without beautiful vases, pots and jars to hold them?

Even if roses, stargazers or daisies have withered and died, the vessels that hold them could span a dynasty—if the Chinese were to believe—especially if these are made of porcelain from the ancient city of Jingdezhen in China, the ceramic capital of the world.

Some enterprising young Chinese had this in mind when they hauled more than 200 pieces of porcelain vases, pots and jars from their backyard in Jingdezhen City and brought them to Baguio to see if Filipinos here would appreciate their products.

They set up shop at the Cooyesan Plaza on Naguilian Road. The vases are priced between P50 and P120,000.

"Touch it, tap it, lightly beat and it sounds like a bell. These are made of hardworking hands from our province that is famous in pottery and ceramic industry," said Wan Jun, 33, through an interpreter.

Wan and his partner, Xie Dao, 23, say they both grew up in Jingdezhen where their ancestors began to produce ceramics as early as 1,800 years ago in the Eastern Han Dynasty.

They both cannot speak and understand English so they hired Myrna Bayeng, a Baguio resident who speaks fluent Mandarin to talk to the customers.

Bayeng, who worked in Taiwan for 10 years, says Jingdezhen is synonymous to Chinese porcelain.

Aware that pirated products made in China are rampant everywhere, Wan and Xie proudly displayed the certificates issued by the Chinese government to prove that the designs were made by legitimate artists from Jingdezhen.

The most prized collector's item is a set of jars painted by a Chinese ceramic artist Li Bo Feng. Each jar costs between P45,000 and P60,000.

"You will have an idea of our Chinese history and culture through our products," Wan said.

Xie said they have vases with an inscription of a poem about China's ancient queen.

The cheapest vase and porcelain mugs cost P50 while a set of chopsticks in various hues of red, white and blue sells for P1,000.

Wan said small jars are the most sought items among Benguet's wine makers and producers. Benguet produces strawberry and rice wine (tapuey) and some wine makers use porcelain jars and earthen jars from the Ilocos for their products.

Buddhists, according to Bayeng, visit their shop and appreciate lampshades (the most expensive of which sells for P15,700) where the images of Buddha are engraved.

Wan and Xie assured they have other items that have no religious symbols such as embroidered flowers. There is also a frame with a tiger design but the fur used came from different animals.

Wan and Xie claim they were selling all their products half the original price because they wanted to return to China soon.

"We miss our families in China already. But we don't want to bring home these heavy stuff with us because we can no longer afford to pay taxes at the Bureau of Customs," Wan said.

They have been doing business in the city for almost six months now.

"Offering a 50 percent discount is a gift we can give to Filipinos who are the friendliest people we have met in Asia. They like our products and they're very appreciative of us although we can't speak English," they said.

Asked how they described their relationship with Filipinos, Wan summed it up in one Filipino word he knows: "Maganda (Beautiful)."

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Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Issuance of Bid Forms to interested parties shall be from March 03-15, 2006. A corresponding non-refundable cost of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) shall be charged for the bid documents payable to the collecting/disbursing officer of the Project before issuance of bid forms.

Sealed Bids/Quotations in Duplicate Forms accompanied by a *Bids Security* in the form of *CASH, CERTIFIED CHECK, CASHIER'S CHECK ONLY* and equivalent to *one percent (1.0%) of the total approved budget (ABC)* shall be dropped in the Bid Box for Goods/Supplies and Services located at the Office of the Project Manager not later than 12:00NN of *March 16, 2006 and will be publicly opened at exactly 1:00PM* of the same date at NIA-CMIPP Conference Hall.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", shall govern this procurement schedule.

Only prospective bidders registered with the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), Procurement Services of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) are qualified to participate in the Bidding.

The NIA-CMIPP/BAC reserves the right to reject any or all such bids/quotations, waive any defect found therein and to accept the offer which is mot beneficial to the government. The decision of the BAC in the evaluation of bids/quotations is final.

All inquiries pertaining to this Invitation to Bid may be directed to the abovementioned Office.

(Sgd.) SERAFIN A. PALTENG
Project Manager

(PDI - March 3 & 10, 2006)

All work, no play . . .

From page B2-1

stress levels between 40 percent and 44 percent.

The Americans said they suffered 45 percent more last year than in the previous year.

Also, the poll revealed that a direct correlation between stress and the amount of holiday, excluding public holidays, taken by executives around the world .

Majority of business leaders in East Asia suffered from a high stress increase in 2005, possibly as a result of the poor holiday allowance, results showed.

On average, Filipino business owners took only 12 days off last year, compared to executives from European countries who took an average of 22 days of vacation.

Those who took the most days of vacation were those in France with 27 days while those in Thailand took the least at four days.

For P&A managing partners Greg Navarro, these findings point to interesting points that need looking in to.

"(Are) executives less stressed because they take more vacations, or do they take more vacations because they feel less stressed?" Navarro muses.

"Long holidays mean less stress for business owners in Europe, which is well and good," he adds. "But you wonder how sustainable this practice is in the long run, especially with East Asian countries quickly catching up with their Western counterparts."

Other factors that contributed to stress in some countries included business travel and fears over job security.

Business owners from India topped the list of complainants against traveling with 41 percent of them saying it was "most stressful" while a fifth of those from the Philippines, Botswana and China said business trips were "very or extremely stressful."

Those most worried about job security were from Japan and Thailand with 49 percent of respondents from the two countries said it was a "high" or "extreme" factor. Trailing them were the Indians and the Turks, with 48 percent and 42 percent.

The least stressed about job security were those from Sweden (7 percent), The Netherlands , United Kingdom and Singapore (9 percent).

How do your stress levels compare now to one year ago? (% Increased)

Taiwan	89
Mainland China	87
Philippines	76
Botswana	74
Hong Kong	69
Singapore	67
Malaysia	65
South Africa	65
Greece	63
Thailand	62
Japan	60
Russia	60
Mexico	58
Turkey	58
India	57
Global average (Inc. Mainland China)	**57**
Global average (exc. Mainland China)	**51**
Germany	50
Luxembourg	49
Argentina	48
Australia	48
Canada	48
Ireland	46
New Zealand	46
Poland	46
US	45
Netherlands	43
UK	43
France	42
Spain	42
Italy	40
Sweden	24

Source: Grant Thornton 2006 International Business Owners Survey
Figures are the percentage of respondents indicating that their stress levels have increased or increased significantly over the past year.

Hygiene ...

From page B2-1

Unilever, then Philippine Refining Co., used good-looking teenagers in their commercials. Many of these became popular actors and actresses like Lloyd Samartino, Gabby Concepcion, Richard Gomez, Dawn Zulueta, Tonton Gutierrrez.

"We weaved our way into the pop culture," says Lorenzana.

In 2004, the marketing team wanted to come up with a big Valentine's event for CloseUp. Kissing, which is associated with love, became the focal point and a kissing event called Lovapalooza was born.

In 2004, the event landed the Guinness Book of World Records when 5,300 couples smooched for at least 10 seconds on Valentine's Day at Bay Walk along Roxas Boulevard, breaking Chile's record of 4,445 couples.

The number of couples who registered in 2005 dropped to 1,500 and this year it registered about 2,000. However, organizers said some 800,000 participated in the event which was held simultaneously in other parts of the country like Manila, Davao and Cebu. More than half of this or 500,000 were in Manila.

Unilever is mum about the cost of mounting the Lovapalooza event. But Annamarie H. Fernandez, brand manager for CloseUp, says Lovapalooza has an impact on sales just before and after the event.

The bulk of the expense went into security, entertainers and some giveaways.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
NIA Northside Road, National Government Center
Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), a government agency under the Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines and created pursuant to Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002", is now accepting applications to fill up one hundred (100) new positions for PDEA Drug Enforcement Officers.
2. The following are the vacant positions, together with the corresponding salary grade, number of slots, preferred education, and experience:

Position Title	Salary Grade	Nr. of Slots	Preferred Education	Experience
Investigation Agent III	22	6	Bachelor's Degree Relevant to the Job (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility) (Preferably Lawyer/CPA)	3 years of relevant experience and 16 hours of relevant training
Intelligence Officer IV	22	4	Bachelor's Degree (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility) (Preferably Lawyer/CPA)	3 years of relevant experience and 16 hours of relevant training
Intelligence Officer III	18	10	Bachelor's Degree (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	2 years of relevant experience and 8 hours of relevant training
Investigation Agent I	18	10	Bachelor's Degree Relevant to the Job (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	2 years of relevant experience and 8 hours of relevant training
Special Investigator II	15	10	Bachelor's Degree Relevant to the Job (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	1 year of relevant experience and 4 hours of relevant training
Intelligence Officer II	15	20	Bachelor's Degree (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	1 year relevant experience and 4 hours of relevant training
Intelligence Officer I	11	40	Bachelor's Degree (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	No experience and training required
TOTAL		100		

3. Interested applicants must possess the following minimum qualifications:
   - a. Filipino Citizen;
   - b. At least 21 years of age and preferably below forty (40) years of age;
   - c. Height: Preferably 5'4" for male and 5' for female.
   - d. Must be physically and mentally fit;
   - e. Of proven integrity and honesty and without criminal and/or derogatory records;
   - f. Baccalaureate degree holder; and
   - g. Passed the CSC Professional Eligibility Examination or Bar/Board Examination.
4. Interested applicants shall undergo the following phases of screening in order to qualify for the vacant positions
   - a. **FIRST PHASE**: The applicants shall take the written entrance examination (which shall include general knowledge, comprehension, IQ and aptitude test) to be administered by the PDEA on March 12, 2006 at any of the following testing centers and the results thereof shall be published a week later in newspapers of major circulation:
     - 1) Ramon Magsaysay High School, Quezon City for Metro Manila and Luzon
     - 2) Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) Regional Training School 7 in Lahug, Cebu City for Visayas
     - 3) University of Mindanao, Bolton St., Davao City for Mindanao
   - b. **SECOND PHASE**. Those who passed the written entrance examination shall undergo the neuro-psychiatric (NP) examination and background investigation.
   - c. **THIRD PHASE**: Applicants who successfully passed the neuro-psychiatric examination and background investigation shall undergo physical fitness, medical, laboratory, and drug examinations.
   - d. **FOURTH PHASE**: Those who successfully passed the previous phases shall undergo problem solving, essay-type and structured examination/interview.
   - e. **FIFTH PHASE**. The PDEA Recruitment Committee shall select the best and brightest one hundred (100) applicants. It shall ensure that the results of every phase are published as soon as available, in the spirit of transparency.
5. Upon selection and appointment, the appointees shall undergo the six (6)-month basic training at the PDEA Academy, Camp Castaneda, Silang, Cavite.
6. Priority shall be given to applicants who are presently employed or utilized by the PDEA.
7. Personnel of the PNP, AFP and other government agencies who wish to apply shall undergo the same screening process and basic training.
8. Application Forms are available at the PDEA Academy, PDEA Annex Building, NIA Northside Road, National Government Center, Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City and at all PDEA Regional Offices.
9. Please call Telephone Number 929-11-06 Local 178 for clarification and other related matters.

USEC. ANSELMO S. AVENIDO, JR.
Director General, PDEA

(PDI – March 9 & 10, 2006)

INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties on cash or term basis (minimum 30% down payment and 16% interest rate per annum, maximum of 7 years to pay):

Item No.	Description	Location	Minimum Floor Price
06-1	259.7 sqm residential lot	No. 12 Rimas St. Proj. 2, Q.C.	P 2,428,195.00
06-2	4 residential lots 300 sqm each	Brgy. Pimienta, Umingan, Pangasinan	P 455,855.00
06-3	2 residential lots 500 sqm each	Brgy. Prado, Umingan, Pangasinan	P 243,600.00
06-4	House & Lot F/A 48 sqm L/A 198 sqm	L13, B15, AFP Village, San Mateo, Rizal	P 267,877.00
06-5	9,448 sqm industrial lot	Bulacan Agro Industrial Subdivision Calumpit, Bulacan	P 30,516,700.00
06-6	367 sqm residential lot	L12, B6, Snra. De la Paz Subd. Sumulong, Antipolo	P 892,500.00
06-7	241 sqm residential lot	L6, B11, Lopez Subdivision, Brgy. Tugbungan, Zamboanga City	P 20,485.00
06-8	House & Lot F/A 152 sqm L/A 208 sqm	L6, B32, Phase II, Soldier's Hills Subd., Muntinlupa City	P 707,200.00
06-9	120 sqm residential lot	L4, B3, Kameha-meha St., Kingsville Subd., Antipolo	P 367,200.00
06-10	3,000 sqm residential lot 13,000 sqm agri lot	Brgy. Cajimos, Romblon, Romblon	P 1,538,310.00
06-11	House & Lot F/A 42 sqm L/A 120 sqm	L45 & 47, B4, Alpha Street Northmatrixville Subd., Caloocan	P 509,320.00
06-12	322 sqm residential lot	L70, B1-A Diamond Park Victoria Homes, Muntinlupa City	P 547,400.00

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents starting March 13, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 from the Office of the Head, Property Management, 3/F, RSBS Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Q. C.

A Pre-bidding Conference is scheduled on March 23, 2006 at 10:00 AM, Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q. C.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on March 28, 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q. C.

For further inquiries, you can call MS. LIZA HIZON or MR. DARWIN MANZANO at telephone numbers 9124718 or 9114071 local 249.

(PDI–March 10, 11 & 12, 2006)

DENNIS Balajadia with his team

A very sunny venture

DENNIS BALAJADIA, CEO OF NATurale Laboratories, is a beach lover who got tired of using lotion sunblock. After using an imported spray sun protecting liquid, he got hooked and created his own.

"I'm always at the beach with my family and friends. One of my hobbies include scuba diving every month and sunblock is a must. After using an imported brand of clear-spray sunblock, I never want to go back to lotion. Lotion sunblock is messy, sticky and very hard to apply. Since clear spray sunblock is not available locally and is very expensive from abroad, I decided to make my own, " relates Dennis who finished Applied Chemistry at the Ateneo de Manila University.

"I personally tested several prototypes of the product taking into consideration the sun protection factor, scent and overall appeal of the sunblock," he proudly adds.

Balajadia says "Beach Hut is produced by Cosmetic Specialist Inc. but all the ingredients that go into the sunblock are imported. Cosmetic Specialist is a spin-off from a pharmaceutical company."

Cosmetic Specialist Inc. is a BFAD [Bureau of Food and Drug] approved plant in Bulacan where production is handled. Lloyd Laboratories, another pharmaceutical company, spearheaded the research and development side.

Beach Hut will be available in two sizes (75 ml and 180 ml) at a retail price of P220 and P390 respectively. Balajadia adds that for the summer, Beach Hut has committed to offer a 40-ml limited edition size with carabiner. It will be sold in beach destinations such as Boracay, as well as select shopping malls in Metro Manila before summer arrives.

After launching on local soil, Naturale Laboratories is set to bring Beach Hut to foreign shores, in particular, Asian countries, by the third quarter of 2006. Beach Hut is available in Boracay and in major retail outlets in Metro Manila, and key cities of the Philippines.

For information, call (02) 376-2283.

P&G DONATES TO LEYTE. Procter & Gamble Phils. recently donated P1 million to the Philippine National Red Cross for the benefit of landslide victims in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte. In photo are Kitty Li of P&G's Asie Pte Ltd., P&G Phils. president and GM Johnip G. Cua, PNRC chair Sen. Richard Gordon, Ed Imperial and Gwendolyn Pang.

Perfume-making seminar on March 18

THESE DAYS, PERFUME AND COLOGNE ARE ideal items for souvenirs and gifts. Learn the technical know-how of perfume-making and earn extra cash.

In line with the government's objective to give livelihood for those who would like to earn extra income, the Golden Treasure Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on perfume-making at the Vermont Blooms Unlimited, No. 9 Anonas Rd., Proj. 3, Quezon City on March 18, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials, costing. There will be a hands-on experience on how to make perfume spray, cologne spray, roll-on perfume, cream type perfume and the gel solid type. Participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. All the materials will be provided. *For questions, call 952-29-34, 952-40-28, 951-29-66, 436-78-26 and 913-65-51.*

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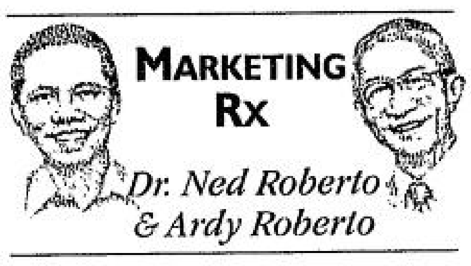
'How should companies position their brands in the market?' —more branding advice from Al Ries



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

HERE'S MORE BRAND AND MARKETING advice from our guest columnist, best-selling marketing author and brand strategist—Al Ries.

Q: What is your view of the state of marketing and branding among professional service providers, particularly consultants?

Al Ries: I think that most professional service providers are good at selling, but not at branding. In other words, they do a very good job in rounding up prospects and making presentations to sell their services. On the other hand, they do a lousy job of branding.

To build a brand, you have to stand for something in the mind. BMW stands for "driving," Volvo stands for "safety," Mercedes-Benz stands for "prestige."

> The best, most powerful global brands are almost always based on new categories

But what does the average professional service firm stand for? Nothing. Take the accounting firms, what's the difference between PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG, and Ernst & Young? I don't know and I'll bet most of their prospects have no idea either. They just hire the accounting firm that puts the best team on their accounts.

Q: In today's world, there are many different brand, product and marketing strategies. In this frame, how should companies position their brands in the market?

Al Ries: Think categories, not brands. The most successful brands are those that are first in new categories. Like Kleenex in tissue. Tide in detergents. Coca-Cola in cola. IBM in mainframe computers. Microsoft in personal computer operating systems. Intel in microprocessors. Dell in selling personal computers direct to businesses.

Even if you are not the actual first brand in a category, there's always a way to divide the category in order to be first in something. BMW was first in "driving machines." Volvo was first in "safe cars." Rolex was first in "high priced watches." Swatch was first in "fashion watches."

Q: How can companies launch brands that allow them to serve existing clients at the same time as capturing new ones?

Al Ries: Instead of thinking of ways to serve and maintain clients or customers, enterprises that launch new brands should think of trying to create new categories. The best, most powerful global brands are almost always based on new categories. The Body Shop was the first cosmetics shop selling "natural" cosmetics. Volvo was the first automobile to focus on "safety" as its primary benefit. Red Bull was the first "energy drink."

Q: How much of an effective B2B campaign is based on the specific strengths of a product versus how much is it based on its advertising/marketing inventiveness?

Al Ries: What you need to do is to combine both. In other words, you want to find a product or service "strength" that can be developed into a powerful marketing program. One without the other is just not going to work. Some product strengths just won't work because somebody else "owns" the strength. Can you build a safer car than a Volvo? Probably. Is this a good product strategy? No. Because Volvo owns "safety" in the mind of the prospect.

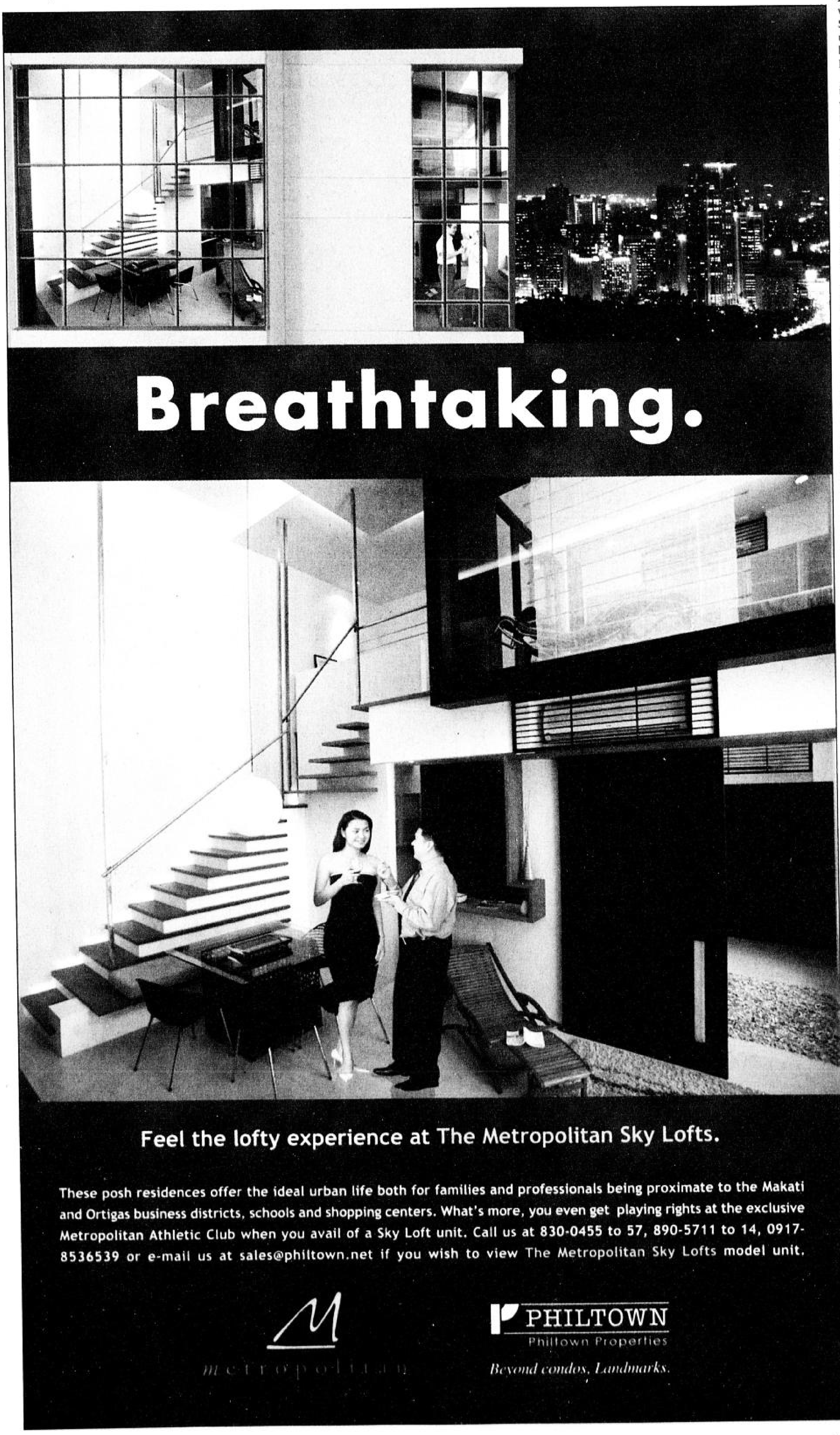
Q: In what way are multinational brands being affected by anti-globalization and anti-American feelings?

Al Ries: In the short term, there will be some effect, but in the long term, the anti-globalization and anti-American feelings will not seriously hurt American brands.

It's strange. You tend to hate your enemies and love your friends, but you tend to respect your enemies and disrespect your friends.

We lived in a community outside of New York City that was heavily Jewish. What was one of the most popular cars in this community? The Mercedes-Benz. Did the Jewish people like the Germans? No, they didn't. Most of them hated the Germans. They just thought that the Germans made the best automobiles.

Our guest columnist, Al Ries, is one of the best known marketing strategists and authors in the world. He will be here in Manila on June 23 to do a one-day brand marketing conference sponsored by The INQUIRER Executive Seminar Series. MarketingRx is hosting Al Ries and his marketing advice column every other week until June. If you have any questions for us or for Al Ries send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!



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A MODERNIZED zarzuela highlights the media launch of the new coffee.

Firm offers new coffee variant

NESTLE PHILIPPINES INC. RECENTLY INTRODUCED Nescafe Classic First Pick, a limited edition soluble coffee made special by its unique taste and intense aroma.

First Pick is made from coffee cherries handpicked by Filipino farmers during the beginning of the harvest season.

"The Nescafé Classic First Pick takes inspiration from the 100,000 Filipino coffee farmers and the 300,000 people in the country that are in some way involved in the planting, harvesting or processing and trading of coffee whom Nestle works with throughout the years," explained Nestle Philippines Inc. chair and CEO Nandu Nandkishore

BEACH fashion for a goddess /D1

LIFESTYLE

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

= WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◎ THURSDAY **FOOD** ◎ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

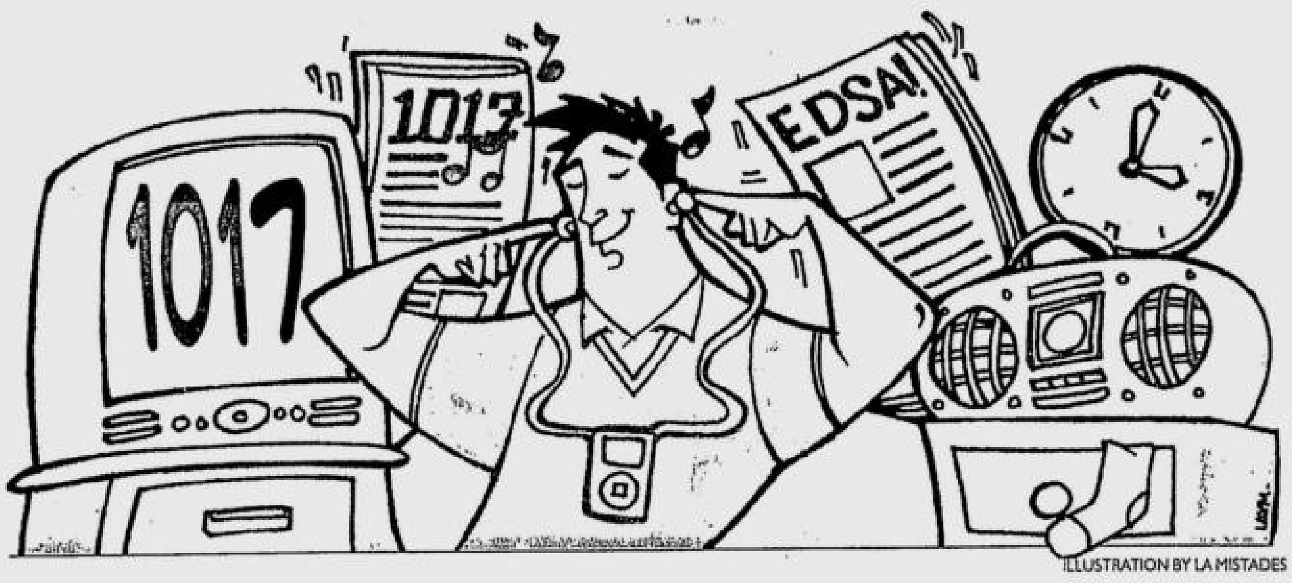


ILLUSTRATION BY LA MISTADES

Does your kid have a future here?

Make your summer holiday a special one.

Check out the RESORTS classification in the

DPC YELLOW PAGES

An iPod away from the coup

MY SON GOES THROUGH MUCH OF THE day with his iPod plugged to his ears, just like you perhaps. Today's kids wander around with ear plugs. They are tuned out of their surroundings and wired to their sounds. The podcast is their world.

I suspect the iPod, MP3 and the like were made just for a conspiratorial purpose: to shield young people from the mess we've made around them.

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

That thought crossed my mind as I watched the Marines' standoff on TV and glanced back at my son whose eyes were glued to the TV and ears plugged into his iPod. What an ironic juxtaposition of technologies—and of realities. He asked what was going on. I told him, and he had no comment.

He is an "Edsa 1 baby." I remember that day as the day when the soldiers advanced threateningly to our office, the then resurrected Manila Times, and the exact day I stopped breastfeeding.

Like many assiduous moms, I would go to work, store my milk in bottles and keep these bottles frozen in the office ref. That night the soldiers made an attempt to take over the Manila Times, my milk dried up due to stress. That was my son's biological link—if you could call it that—to Edsa.

Today he's 20 years old, has just graduated from college last month, and what kind of world did all our "Edsas" set up for him?

In their despair, many have been writing off our kids' future in their own country. I'm not one of them.

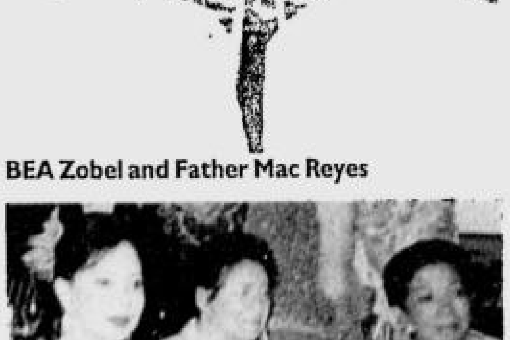
I don't think my kid would easily land a job, perhaps he would not as easily land a job as I did. Like many his age, he's open to odd jobs. Barely a month after graduation, he and his friends landed a part-time job of manning gaming stations and marketing video games—because they enjoy playing them anyway. But that's not long-term.

Since he's almost 6-ft tall and, in my biased view, rather good-looking, he can be a model perhaps. In case you haven't noticed, kids today aspire to be models or stars—quick buck. My son isn't hot about it, but he's open. Or perhaps, he tells me, he can go to his *tito* in California and do odd jobs while he's young.

I am not despairing for my "Edsa baby," not yet anyway. Even if the country is a mess, I am not about to tell my son that he has no future here. He has about as much chance to feel fulfilled here as he has elsewhere.

Here or anywhere, he just has to know honest, hard work—to be productive Christian gentlemen, that's my dream for my sons.

AN IPOD/ C3



BEA Zobel and Father Mac Reyes

MELDY Cojuangco, Anita Magsaysay-Ho and Nena Villanueva

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JASMINE Castelo as Catwoman

GANZON FAMILLE. Gerard, mom Girlie, Maverick, Kara, the celebrator Sarah P., Cajel, Man-man, and Rudolf

PATIS Tesoro, a Chinese Coolie; Zafito Ledesma and Ellen Jison in authentic Moroccan costumes; Kristin Trenas in an Igorot dress; Gina Espinosa in a Chinese-inspired blouse; and Tito Tesoro as the Sheik of Araby

WOMAN of the hour, Egyptian Queen Sarah Opolencia and her pharaoh, husband Judgee Lopez Peña

JOEBOY and Mafelou Agriam, *moi*, Pangging Rosales, Edouard Garcia, Nonoy Ybiernas and lawyer Mik Maxino

Iloilo rocks with masque ball

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE HOTTEST TICKET TO HIT THE bustling city of Iloilo was the grand masque ball, given by the city's *numero uno* hostess with the mostest, top civic leader **Sarah Opolencia Peña**, no less, who sent out the invites way in advance, warning her guests that "it will strictly be a costume affair," *palanggas*. And needless to say, when Sarah P. calls, all of the chosen ones come, dahlings.

After all, Sarah was celebrating her birthday and was society's latest golden girl! And gold it was for the décor all over the sprawling garden at her residence in posh-y Ledesco Village in Jaro.

Après cocktails and excellently prepared finger food, our golden gal made her grand entrance as the Queen of Egypt, accompanied by her husband, old-wealth sugar baron **Judgee Lopez Peña**, costumed as the Pharoah.

Within a skip and a hop away were their three absolutely brilliant and attractive daughters: top young law student **Rita** was Helen of Troy, **Risa** was the Princess of Venice, and the youngest, **Rica**, was Queen Amidala of the "Star Wars" series. They helped their mom entertain the chicest of *le chic* invitees dolled up as Roman emperors, carnival queens, gypsies, maharajas, Indian princesses, Chinese royals, Vietnamese roses, plus several others, dahlings.

My roving eyes couldn't get enough of the fab costumes during the glitzy affair, *palanggas*. World-traveler and Bacolod's mega social writer **Edouard Garcia** had the most magnificent authentic Indian costume which he got on his last trip to India; he was awarded the Best Costume of the affair for coming as the Maharaja of Jaipur.

Meanwhile, spitfire **Susie Facultad** was voted the Best in Punk Costume; sultry French-speaking **Jasmine Castelo** was Most Creative for dressing up as Catwoman.

Well-loved **Girlie Ganzon** came with all her children and together, they bagged the Best Group prize.

Panay News' hard-to-beat social writer **John Castigador** got the Best Historical Costume award (he was dressed as Pontius Pilate); and those handsome guests from the Air Force received the Best in Uniform award.

There were loads of other eye-catching, gorgeous costumes circulating around, like the South's dance queen, adorable **Susan Wang**, who bakes the best, yummiest apple pie; she looked fantastic as a Caribbean dancer.

Meanwhile, Southern *homme de monde*, **Zafito Ledesma**, and woman of substance **Ellen Golez-Jison** donned authentic Moroccan costumes.

Gorgeous, "free-again" **Pangging Rosales** walked around as Vietnam Rose. She is back from the Big Apple "to stay... for a while," she teasingly told me.

Iloilo's top-of-the-line eventologist, cyber smart **Nonoy Ybiernas**, made absolutely sure the fab affair went without a hitch. It was definitely a smashingly successful event, with the help of fun-fun **Bonnie Gaverza**. They took charge of everything from the invitations to the excellent dinner menu superbly catered by Sarah P's favorite chef *par excellance*—**Wilson Esparancilla**, *palanggas*.

Adding more spice to this glitz happening were child performers from the celebrator's own charity organization, the R.S. Child Center; they sang and danced a hip-hop number. The charity was one of the four beneficiaries of our golden girl. The donation, according to Sarah, was "my birthday gift to them who really need it."

Next came the Peña daughters doing a Spanish dance number, and for the finale, *après* rehearsing only for three days, Sarah O. P. did an awesome cabaret number, which would have made **Liza Minnelli** sit back and applaud. As for all of us, we all applauded heartily, *naturellement*.

Then it was time to hit the dance floor and rock and roll. Rocking the floor were the well-respected Major General **Jaime Viernes Jr.** and his squadron from the Philippine Air Force; the men danced with most of the women, endlessly even when it rained. Yes, dahlings, there was no stopping the Air Force officers.

Lorrie chills out in Manila

New York-based chef **Lorrie Reynoso** jetted into town for a three-week chilling out from the Big Apple's freezing cold and there was hardly a day that she was not being honored for lunch, *merienda* or dinner, *palanggas*. After all, when her gang of close friends happened to be in the "city that never sleeps," she would entertain everyone with her fabulous cooking at her trendy 79th and 2nd Avenue apartment, or take them out to New York's best restos!

The day before she zoomed back to the US, Lorrie R. was treated to a to-die-for dinner given by super-hosts, **Al Tengco** and eye-catching wife **Carla Reyes**, as well as by dashing businessman **Johnny Velasquez** and stunning looker **Maripi Muscat**, at the hard-to-beat Hai Shin Lou Restaurant on Pasay Road, *palanggas*.

A group of 25 close pals feasted on the most delicious menu, prepared by chef **Tommy Yau**. The dishes were awesome: Deep-Fried Boneless Chicken Marinated with Shrimp Paste; Steamed Live Sea Bass with Tausi; Stir-Fried Fresh Scallop with Kuchay Tips; the fab Crab with Sotanghon in Hot Pot; and the ever-reliable superb Roasted Duck, *natch*!

The working heiress, fun **Bela Madrigal Vazquez**, couldn't stop herself from making a take-home order of the super rice dish.

That same night, cool **Tingting Cojuangco** and husband **Peping** were having dinner there, too, making sure that daughter **Mai-Mai** and son-in-law **Andrea Zini**, who had just jetted in from Florence, Italy, would savor the excellent variety of dishes of the restaurant.

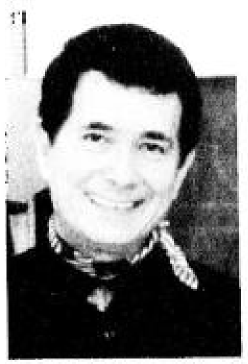
Check out Hai Shin Lou (7527433), *palanggas*.

MARJORIE Liboon

DR. MAROVI Ascalon-Celis and husband, architect Ray Celis; and Ted Mino

PETER O' Driscol, Pam Amarillo as the Dinagyang Queen, Diane Mirasol and Richard Abadiano

ZEDRICK Señeres



ROBERT "Panchito" Lopez Puckett

SUSAN Wang and Iloilo City councilor Jed Patrick Mabilog

JOHNNY Velasquez, one of the hosts

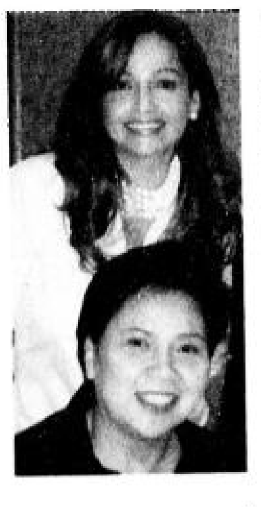
INIGO Zobel, Vicky Fernandez Zubiri, and Wolfgang Bierlein

MY PAL, Pepper Teehankee

ONE of the hosts, man for all seasons Al Tengco, and wife, classic beauty Carla Reyes

AN EXCELLENT dinner for Lorrie Reynoso. Standing: one of the hostesses Maripi Muscat, Roggie Lopez Panganiban, and honoree, New York-based top chef Lorrie Reynoso. Seated: international businessman Sinai Djemal, organic queen and health crusader Mara Pardo de Tavera and Mario Borao

JACKIE Atienza, Alex Van Hagen and Freddie Olbes



LEFT: Maricris Cardenas Zobel and jeweller Linda Oledan. **Above:** restaurateur Cecille Reynoso

STYLISH world-traveler, vivacious Gigi de Jonghe

An iPod away from the coup

From page C1

I sometimes think that my mom's and dad's generation messed up this country really bad—I was convinced of this, especially in my student-activist days.

But then, looking back, I also realize that their generation fought and died in the War. They endured the Occupation and fought starvation. They've paid their dues, even if the country they handed down to us wasn't much. Now, is my generation messing up as well, leaving not much for our kids?

Honestly, you feel that way more and more, especially when you see the grime everywhere, literally and otherwise. But then you can also tell your son that many of your friends and classmates lost their lives fighting the dictatorship and gave up their affluent lives to live and fight with the masses. Your generation too has paid its dues, even if some of them are squandering yet again their chance at enlightened governance.

My point is, for every scoundrel, there is the equivalent of people working relentlessly to make this a decent place. The wave of migration doesn't give me anxiety attacks, because I know that one doesn't lose one's sense of home and childhood easily. Overseas Filipinos have had a way of giving back to their country, if they don't come back here themselves; you don't have to be in real-estate development to know that.

We just have to keep at it until we get this country right. This hard, honest, vigilant effort of salvaging a country should be good enough for our kids. Besides, their turn will come to clean up this mess. When it does we should have at least trained our sons and daughters not to run away from a good fight.

Making a difference

Talk about people who try to make a difference even from their comfortable perch. How ironic that Pitoy Moreno's birthday is Feb. 25—ironic because Pitoy has always been a good friend of the Marcoses, who had to flee Malacañang on his birthday 20 years ago.

This year, on the eve of the 25th, as rallies broke out in Makati and Ortigas, friends of Pitoy gathered at the awesomely beautiful penthouse of foremost interior designer Gerry Contreras not only to celebrate his birthday but, more important, to introduce the recipients of the J. Moreno Scholarship Foundation this year.

Not known to many, Pitoy has been giving these annual grants for 25 years. Fifteen years ago, his good friend Imelda Cojuangco offered to share in giving the grants. That night Ms Cojuangco showed up and it was nice to see how good and healthy she looked.

Apart from his penthouse, Gerry's glass-and-concrete house on the rooftop—standing cheek by jowl with Mandarin—was something else. But that's for another day.

FOR SOMEONE who did exceptionally well, a silver jewelry set

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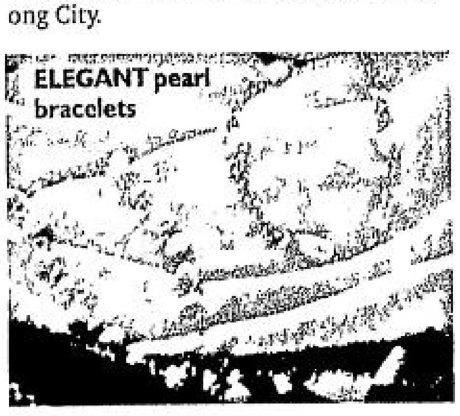
For someone who did exceptionally well, get something more precious from a wide selection of elegant bracelets and necklaces. They can be appropriate accessories when they start their first jobs.

You may also want to give the whole family tokens of this special occasion. Give them copies of graduation pictures in classic and elegant Mother of Pearl picture frames.

Michelis sterling silver jewelry and gift items are exclusively available at its boutiques in Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center Makati; Greenhills Jewelry Centre, San Juan; and Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati. Michelis is also available at Rustan's Department Store branch in Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Ermita, and Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City.



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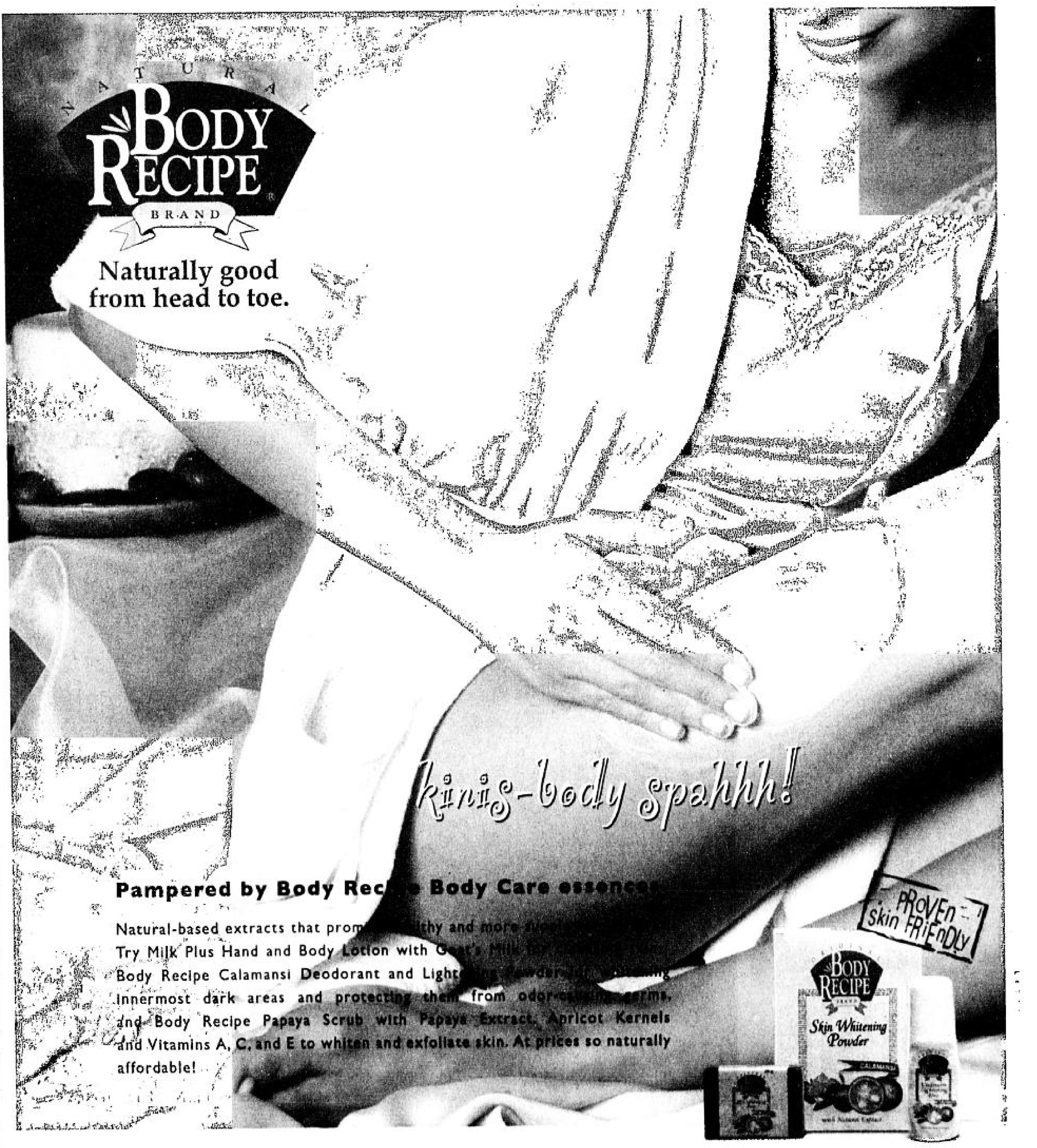

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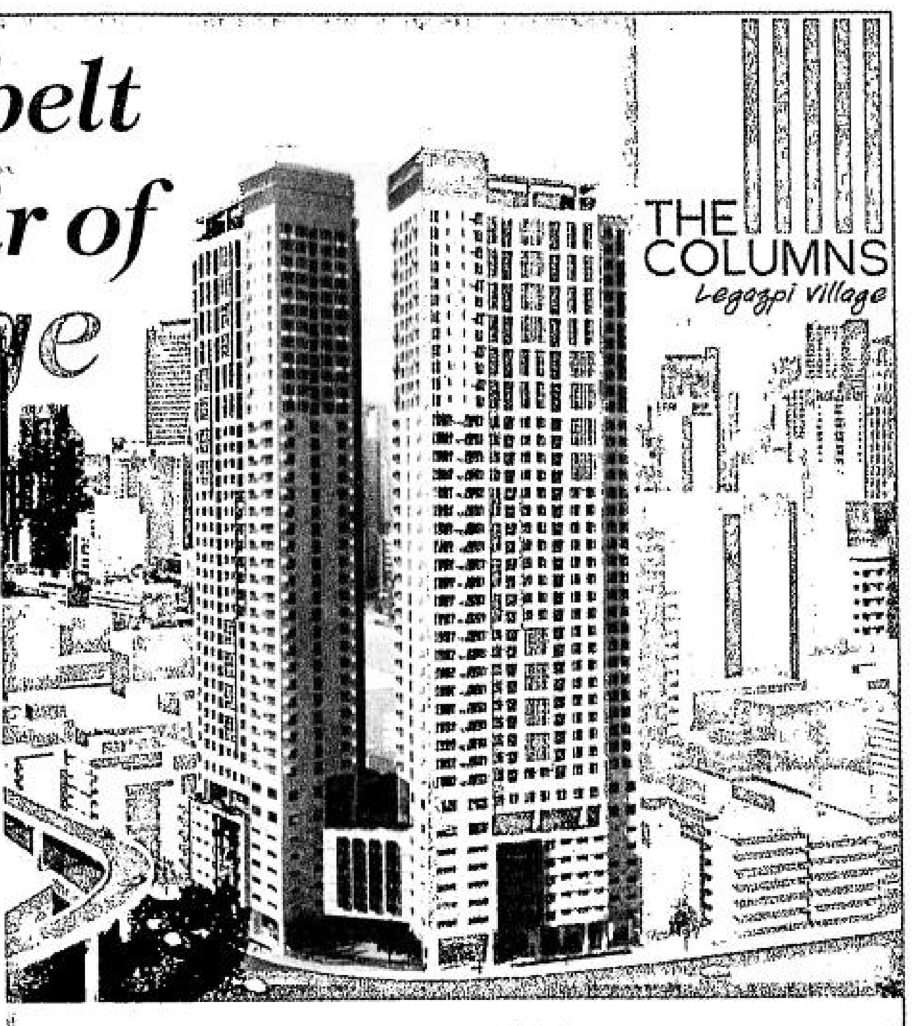

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Model units available for viewing at the 3rd level, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center everyday from 10 am to 8 pm (Sunday to Thursday), 10 am to 9 pm (Friday and Saturday).

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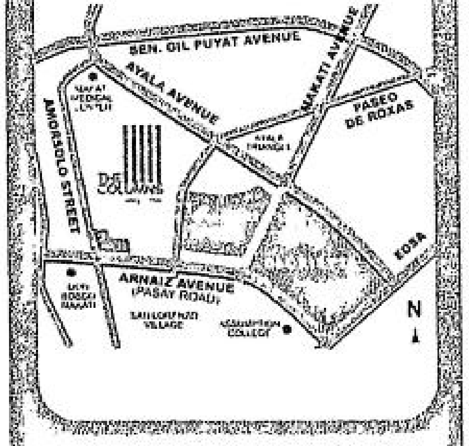

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Mandarin scholarships

IN ORDER TO PROMOTE ACADEMIC exchange and strengthen the bilateral relations between Taiwan and the Philippines, Taiwan's Ministry of Education will provide nine scholarship grants for academic year 2006 to pursue postgraduate studies and three scholarship grants for study Mandarin language. Scholars in the Mandarin course will receive a monthly stipend of NT$25,000 ($780) while those pursuing postgraduate studies will be given NT$30,000 ($937). Deadline for submission of application forms and requirements is March 31. Applicants can download application forms on www.taiwanoffice.org. ph, www.mofa.gov.tw and www.edu.tw. Guidelines for the scholarship and application forms are also available at Press Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, 41/F, Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati; 8:30 a.m.-12 nn, and 1:30-5 p.m., Monday to Friday. Call Teco at 8876688 local 141.

GOINGS ON

WED EXHIBIT. MMLDC in Antipolo City will hold an exhibit, food tasting and tour for soon-to-wed couples and events organizers, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., March 11. Advanced reservation for the exhibit is recommended. Discounts and promos for onsite bookings will be offered. A free shuttle service will be available to and from Ortigas. Pick-up time is 9 a.m. in front of Meralco Post Office Building, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig. Call 6961016 or 6328111 local 304. E-mail mmldc.marketing@meralco.com.ph or visit www.mmldc.com

JAZZ TIME. Shangri-La Plaza presents at 6-7 p.m., jazz vocalist Mon David, today, and crooner Enrique Marcos tomorrow, at the Grand Atrium. The mall's Coffee, Tea and Jazz Festival will begin with ribbon-cutting rites at 5-6 p.m., March 17, at the Grand Atrium. Activities include Ancient Japanese Tea Ceremony to be conducted by the Chado Urasenke Tankokai Manila Association; barista demonstration by Coffee Beanery; Expresski product demo by Dome Café; bean to cup seminar by Starbucks; and seminar on tea, beauty and social graces by Olen Lim. Featured artists are Skarlet, March 17; Anya Santos, March 18; Isha, March 24; Johnny Alegre, March 25; and Wunjo, March 26. Call Shangri-La Plaza Marketing at 6337851/70 local 147.

SEMINAR. The Philippine Society of Librarians and Information Specialists will hold "Cataloging and Indexing update: An achievement workshop," March 13-15, at Securities and Exchange Commission, Bldg., 10/F, Edsa, Ortigas, Mandaluyong. Call 7241994, 5238687, 0919-5180126 and 0919-7727678.

CORBAN Communications Inc. is offering a new series of Easy English seminars every Saturday and Sunday starting March 18, 2-5 p.m. Call 8426665, 8093050 or 0917-6297718.

PROMO. Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa presents "Pambahay Papremyo Araw-Araw." With every P300 worth of purchase from any Robinsons mall outlet, a customer gets a raffle coupon. Prizes for the daily raffle include washing machines, microwave ovens, color television, DVD players, VCD/mp3 cassette players. Promo runs until March 31. Robinsons malls also hold "March Summer Sale," March 18 and 19. Call 8371025.

WORKSHOP. A workshop on "Effective Oral Presentation" will be held 2-5 p.m., March 15-17, at the Ortigas Complex, Pasig. Call 8213583 or 0915-4315375.

PERFORMANCE. Mary Kay (Philippines) Inc. will sponsor Ballet Philippines' "Tango Filipina/La Divina", March 17-18, at Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, Cultural Center of the Philippines' main theater. MKP is an affiliate of Mary Kay Inc., a world leader in personal care and color cosmetics. Call 8596211 or visit www.marykay.com.ph

JOB FAIR. The Call Center Philippines 2006 Job Fair will be held 10 a.m.-6 p.m., March 18-19, at Expo Trade Hall, Festival Supermall Alabang. Participating companies include Convergys, Teletech, Apac and John Clements. Call 8253482/0804.

BAZAAR. Rockwell Vintage Bazaar is set for March 18-19. Visit the Rockwell Tent and shop till you drop. Call 8981702.

CONFERENCE. Ayala Museum presents "The Jade Trail: Amazing New Discoveries from the Batanes Islands, Northern Philippines," March 18, 1 p.m., at Classrooms 1-2 of Ayala Museum. Call 7577117 to 21 local 14.

WORKSHOPS. Businessmaker Academy (BMA) offers three basic and advance Bead Art Classes using Swarovski components. Hands-on workshop series include bead jewelry, April 7; bead sculpture and tiara making, March 10 and April 21; beaded bags and shirts, March 17 and April 28; balloon and candy arrangement, March 24 and May 5; and gift baskets and package design, March 31 and May 11. Call BMA at 6874445/4645/3416 or visit www.businessmaker-academy.com

BAND TILT. Amateur bands with three to five members (male and female), 15 years old and above are invited to join The Brick Road's Retro Groove Band Competition. Repertoire must be songs from the '60s-'80s. Get an entry form at the Ad & Promo Department of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Basement Level Phase III. Attach a photocopy of the members' birth certificates or any valid ID with birth date and 3R group photo. Grand finals will be at The Brick Road's fifth anniversary party on Apr. 29. Call 6815401 loc. 109.

FASHION
LIFESTYLE
Boracay Island
sandcastle soiree

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
JENNI EPPERSON
AND [illegible] ABERIN-SADHWANI

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

You're a beach. . . goddess!

A dream getaway needs a dream wardrobe—sparkly, flowing beach frocks make it all come true

IN THE HEART OF NEARLY every woman in the urban jungle is a mermaid yearning to break free. She smells ocean spray and coconut oil in her dreams. She sings Ariel's "Last Reprise" in the shower. In the middle of a business meeting, she fantasizes about "The Great Sand & Sea Seduction"—her dress glittery with water-diamonds, whimsical with sea-foam, lustrous like pearls.

Jenni Epperson

Enter "beach frocks"—long, flowing chiffon gowns swaying in the wind; cocktail dresses of feathers, ruffles and other frills that flutter in the breeze as one moves. Very sexy!

Farfetched, you could be saying? But think about it: You slave away—in the gym, at the office—to slip into your designer maillot, your skimpy bikini, and catch that flight to your Dream Getaway. Your dream vacation needs—no, deserves—a dream wardrobe.

Frill seekers

This season, beachwear is not about going back to basics, but setting the fashion bar a notch higher. Sarongs, denim cutoffs, tank tops on their last leg! For a change, toss your beach-bum outfits back into the closet and go for a whole lot of glam! Be the Seductive Siren on the prowl, in search of her next sandcastle soirée.

And with Jun Escario working his haute-couture magic (that oh-so-perfect mix of sensuality and sophistication), frill seekers won't have to cross oceans of time to find seductive fashion.

"I love doing party dresses for the beach—the crazier, the better!" says this Cebu sensation.

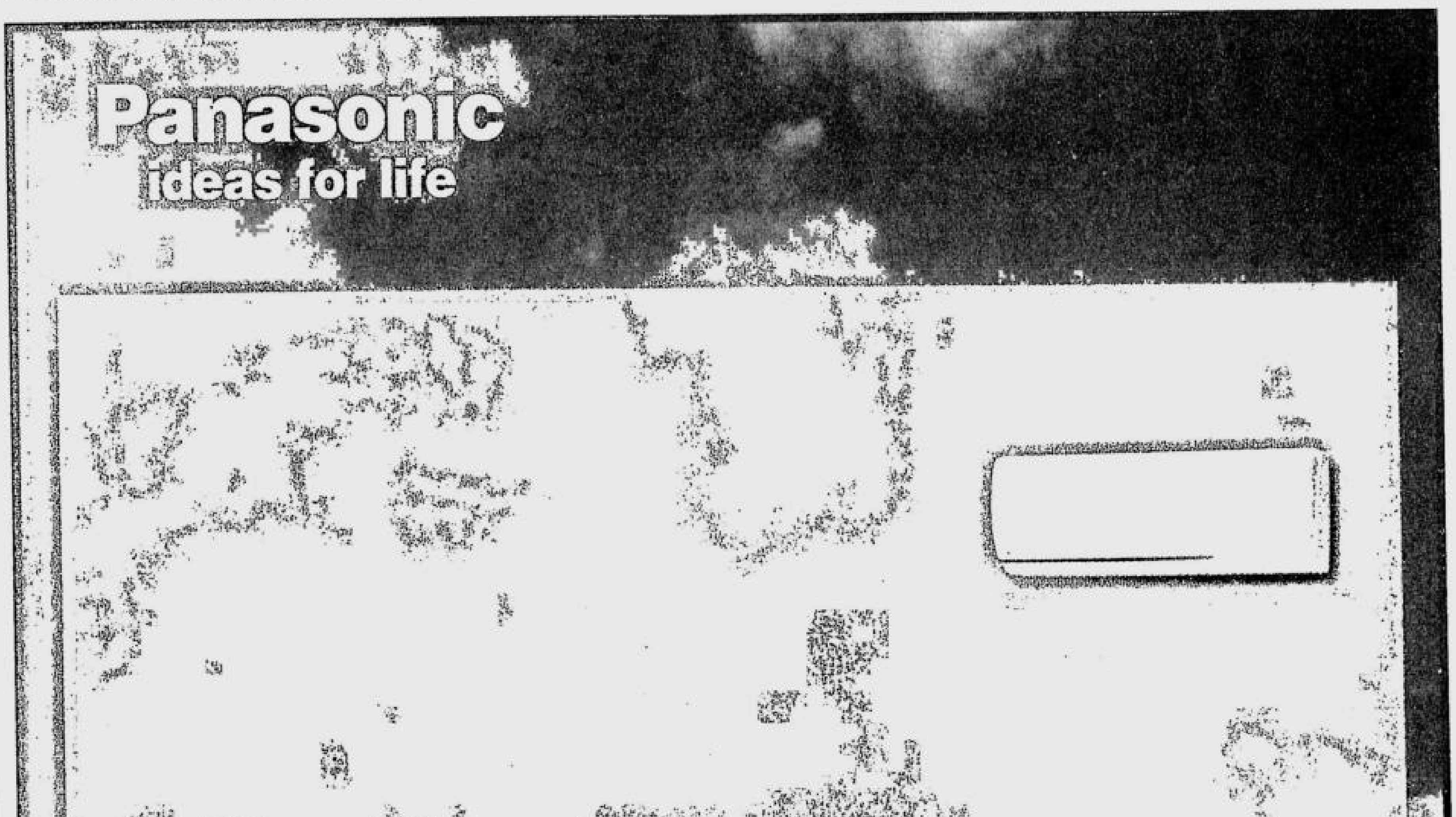
When whipping up his creations, Jun turns to his "must fabrics": voile and cheesecloth, figure-flattering jersey and spandex, lush silk chiffon and pure silk, done in Hermes orange and chocolate ("These colors are so big now"), as well as navy with whites, yellows, lime and gold.

Tease and titillate. Entice and enchant. This is the style mantra on the island come sundown: Slip into your gorgeous garb; rein in your man, and watch the night turn into some enchanted evening.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

YOU'RE/ D2

PHOTOGRAPHY MARK NICDAO
STYLING JENNI EPPERSON
HAIR AND MAKEUP XENG ZULUETA
OF SHU UEMURA USING KIEHL'S STYLIST SERIES
AND "SWEET MODE"
MODEL JACKIE INOFERIO
CLOTHES JUN ESCARIO
SPECIAL THANKS TO LEX LEDESMA AND TINA TINIO
OF NAMI BEACH RESORTS



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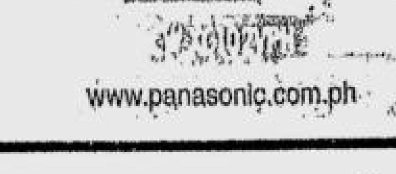

www.panasonic.com.ph

CROCHETED BANDEAU
White crochet headband by Kikay, printed halter dress with rope accent by Tiger Lily at Rustan's, gold bangle by Kikay, seashell drop necklace by Firma

STYLIZED TURBAN
Brown cotton turban by Kikay, multicolored striped maillot by Tiger Lily at Rustan's, and silver hoop earrings with assorted stones by Firma

Hot headed

Heads up, ladies! Cool down this summer with sizzling hot toppers

SCARF
Striped silk scarf by Louis Vuitton, white string bikini by Tiger Lily at Rustan's, silver hoop earrings by Kikay, silver bangle bracelets with dangling stones by Firma

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

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MAKEUP XENG ZULUETA
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PRECISE EYESHADOWS
MODEL SOLENN HEUSSAFF

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHY people in the metro never got into the habit of wearing headpieces such as hats, scarves and bandeaus. The scorching summer sun can practically fry an egg on the hot city pavement and yet the only time I ever see people donning fashionable hats or cute little chapeaus is when I'm in some seaside locale.

Doesn't make sense, right? Well, maybe now's the time to make things right. If only to protect your face and scalp from the sun's harmful rays, you really should start donning some type of headgear. Sure, sunblock helps, but if the ultimate goal is to delay aging, not to mention to look stylishly sharp in the process, then start wearing those wide-brimmed toppers.

Okay, okay, if that's a bit too resort-ish for your tastes, there are other ways to go about it. For instance, you can opt for a Panama hat that has a narrower brim and is therefore less attention-grabbing than the very wide-brimmed variety, otherwise known as a cartwheel.

If you're really not the type to wear a hat, then protect your scalp and hair while adding some oomph to your wardrobe by wearing scarves, bandeaus and stylized turbans. A scarf or turban worn just right can be chic and sophisticated or carefree and casual, depending on your personality.

But pretty please, now's not the time to channel a tacky, gypsy-like fortune-teller or has-been Norma Desmond in "Sunset Boulevard" (unless, God-forbid, it suits your personality). Instead, think Jackie O in the '70s as she traipsed around Greece with her huge movie-star sunglasses and a scarf tied around her head.

Just follow your instincts and, as always, base your choices on your personality. Remember, you have to be comfortable to look and feel confident. If you're totally clueless but still want to give headgears a try, ask a fashionista friend to help you out.

Come on. Try out these sassy toppers and have an exciting millinery adventure this sizzling hot summer.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

WOVEN HAT
Panama woven hat by Firma; white cotton top, flower and rope necklace by Mimi

You're a beach. . . go

This season, beachwear is not about going back to basics but setting the fashion bar a notch higher

Tsubibo chic!

From page D1

Glam guidelines

There is a fine line between beach frocks and *sagala* outfits, and seductive sirens-to-be must tread this lightly. INQUIRER Fashion shows you just how.

Attack!
- Wear your frocks barefoot or with sparkly slippers.
- Keep it light: Choose see-through fabrics, plain or embellished.
- Go for silhouettes that are loose and flowing, or cut tight to the body.
- Wear a two-piece bathing suit underneath—wearing lingerie will seem like you're about to hit the sack.

Avoid
- High heels. Unless it's a pool party, wearing one on the beach is just plain weird. Teeter-totter, teeter-totter. . .
- Pouf-y gowns. You don't want to be mistaken for a runaway bride, or heaven forbid, a Reyna Elena. Stick to tunics or slip dresses.
- Heavy fabrics like velvet and brocade, or polyester mix. You want to look hot, not feel hot!

PHOTOGRAPHY MARK NICDAO
STYLING JENNI EPPERSON
HAIR AND MAKEUP XENG ZULUETA
OF SHU UEMURA
USING KIEHL'S STYLIST SERIES
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OF NAMI BEACH RESORTS

Hold 'em fold 'em

Folded & Hung plays its cards right with urban cowboy-inspired clothes worn by new endorser Polo Ravales, sans the baby fat

By Alex Y. Vergara

FOLDED & HUNG IS poised to do to Polo Ravales what it did to Claudine Barretto two years ago. In a bid to strengthen its men's line, the local RTW brand has signed up the young actor as its newest image model.

Ravales, 23, will soon appear in the brand's billboards, print ads and in-store materials. The once chubby teeny-bopper has shed off baby fat over the last few months to fit into his new role as a fashion endorser.

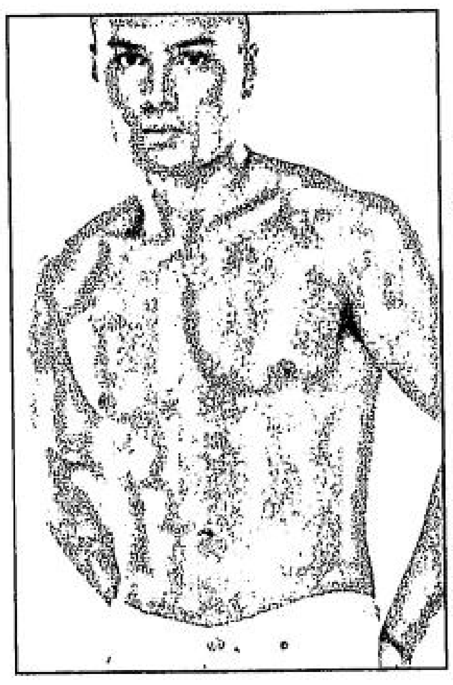
"GMA 7 is grooming him as the next hottest thing," says Alan Vianzon, marketing manager of F&H. "He's now very aggressive and quite sexy, which conform to the brand's image."

F&H has taken note of this reinvention, and is willing to gamble on Ravales the way it did with Barretto sometime ago. His debut coincided with a fashion show featuring him and several male models wearing F&H's summer collection consisting of Western- and military-inspired outfits.

Clothes were grouped into three parts: luxe, casual and denim. For the first time in recent memory, female models at the F&H show played second fiddle to their male counterparts.

"We're still pretty strong when it comes to jeans for both men and women," says Vianzon. "We're known for the illegally low jeans. At the same time, we're also known for party wear."

During the recent Hong Kong fashion week, people behind F&H have firmed up arrangements with suppliers from the former Crown Colony to manufacture the brand's holiday and post-holiday collections. In order to ensure the uniqueness of its clothes, F&H has a pool of in-house designers.



Lean

Its current collection is decidedly lean, in keeping with Ravales' new physique. Earth colors, checks and neutral shades such as white and gray will be big this season, as are such details as patches, epaulets, piping and top-stitching.

Since the urban cowboy-inspired collection was conceptualized six months ago, says Vianzon, any reference to the critically acclaimed film "Brokeback Mountain" is purely coincidental.

The brand, however, isn't shy to admit that a big bulk of its market is composed of fashion-conscious gay men. They now have a new dream boy in the person of the lean and mean Ravales.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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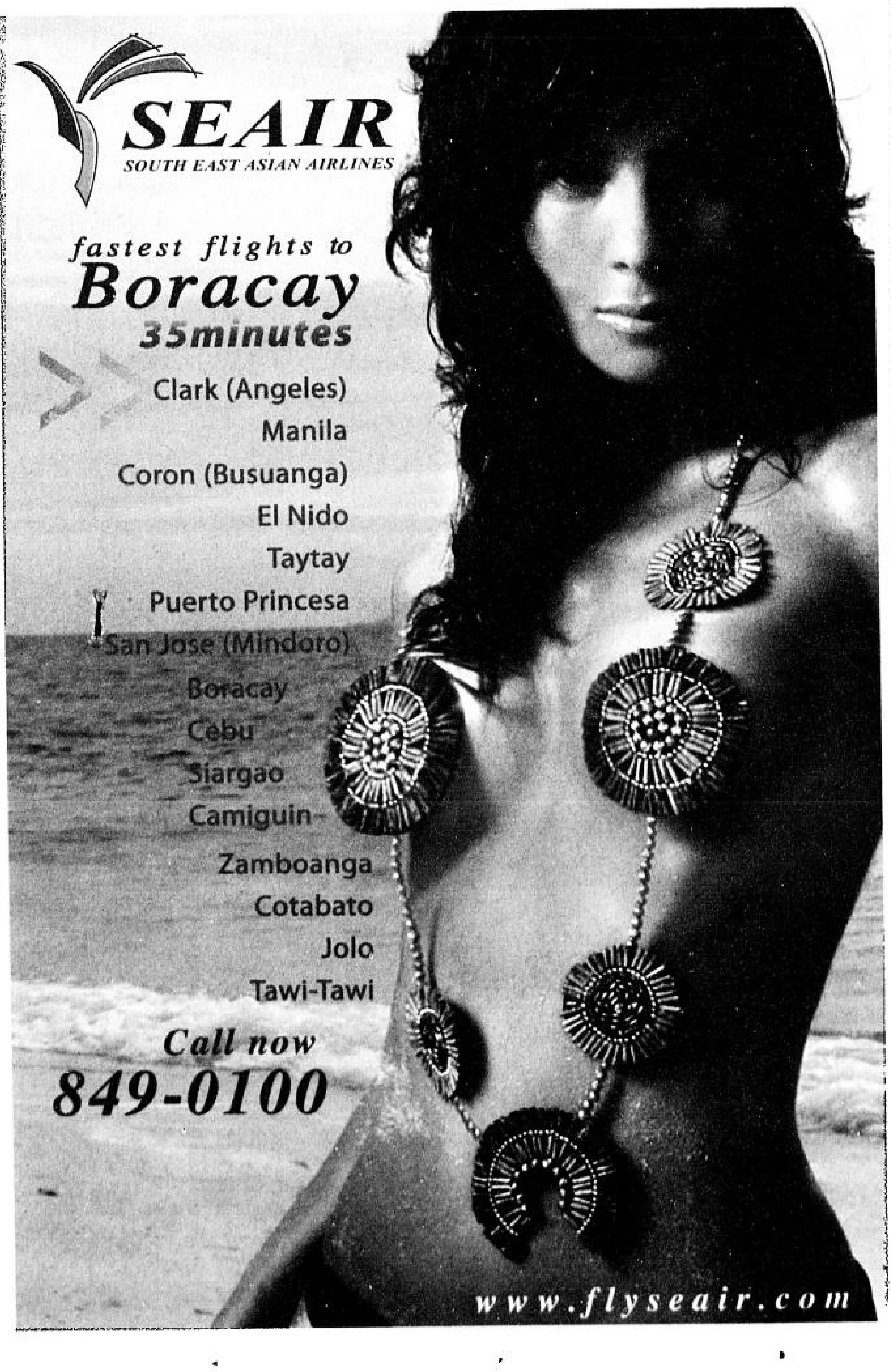
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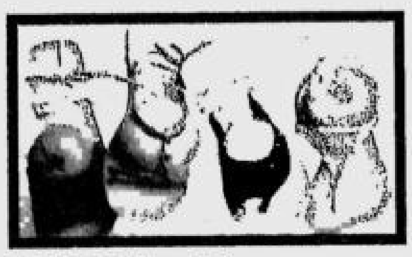

CHARCOAL sandals

NECKLACE by Debbie Co

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Photography by Darren Tieste for Metro

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WHAT:

The Rockwell Vintage Bazaar goes "Summer Chic!"

WHEN:

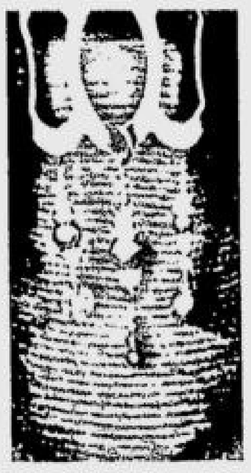
March 18 and 19

WHERE:

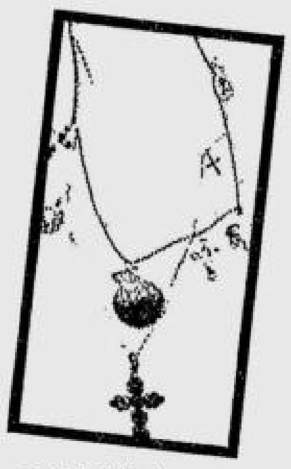
Rockwell Tent, Rockwell Center, Makati

WHY:

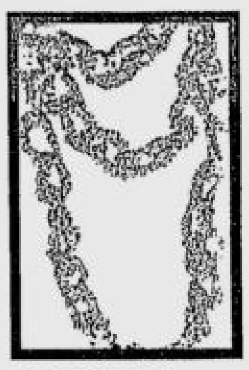
It's a showcase of stylish clothing, swimwear, and accessories by Manila's talented designers and entrepreneurs. Watch out for Cocotini by Amina Aranaz, and Casa Amarilla by Astrud Crisologo; accessories by Irene Pineda, Benjie Angeles, Flatterbuy, and Chic Finds by Michelle Go; Debbie Co, Tonic, Team Manila, and Ilaya clothing lines; and Charcoal and Sapato Manila's stylish steppers.



DEBBIE Co earrings



CHARM blinkers by Flatterbuy



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Contributing editor
Ria Francisco-Prieto

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

BEAUTY

Pillow talk

Make sleep work for you

APPLY night cream before beddy-bye.

I LOVE TO SLEEP, MAYBE A little bit too much. I have to be up, at the latest, at 10 a.m. Beyond that I have a hard time getting up. I honestly don't know why, but that's how I am. I have to sleep early because I'm a morning person, and if I oversleep... see you the next day!

Truth is, sleep is one thing everyone would benefit from. Good sleep (not too much or too little) does the body good. You wake up fresh, you feel and look fresh. Sleep rejuvenates and relaxes us.

Sleep is the best time to pamper yourself. Before sleeping, make sure you moisturize your face, including your neck. Yup, please don't forget your neck.

Last night, before sleeping, I watched this stand-up comic on TV talking about people getting botox. He said that their necks looked like those of turtles.

So see, the neck is as important as the face, so please do not disregard it. Unless you plan to wear turtleneck tops for the rest of your life.

Also spread lotion on your body. Use hand cream. Moisturize even your hair, if you wish. Think about it. Not only are you sleeping, but you are also pampering yourself and nourishing your skin.

My friend kept on complaining about dry skin on her feet. I told her the best thing to do was to spread on petroleum jelly and wear thick socks. She followed it and the next day she told me she never had feet that smooth.

Swelly Jelly
petroleum jelly

ILLUSTRATION ANTHONY MISTADES

USE cheap petroleum jelly to moisturize feet.

Imagine what you can do for your body while you sleep. I honestly wish I could write my articles while I sleep so I wouldn't have to sleep so late anymore.

I'm not complaining. It's just that the things I do for myself when I sleep have such great results that if I found a way to write while I sleep, then maybe I won't have to worry about readers getting bored or me not making sense. Like what I am fearing now.

There are many products in the market that can make sleeping more than a pleasurable experience. Check out L'Occitane's jasmine beads, which you can cover your eyes with. Or look for calming incense that you can use after a long day's work.

Treat yourselves to goose down pillows. Moisturize and wake up to supple skin that will make your sheet feel like silk. If you make sleeping work for you, you will always be waking up feeling sexy.

INVEST in goose down pillows for a restful slumber.

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Summer skin shielders

Here are some products to lessen sun damage and even out your skin

MAKEOVER .911

Kinny Salas

THE SEARCH FOR perfectly even skintone is elusive. Most women go through the rest of their lives never achieving it.

Over the holidays , we were mostly covered up. Now that summer is here all the face brightening/lightening products are coming back with a vengeance.

Summer means the body will once again be darker.

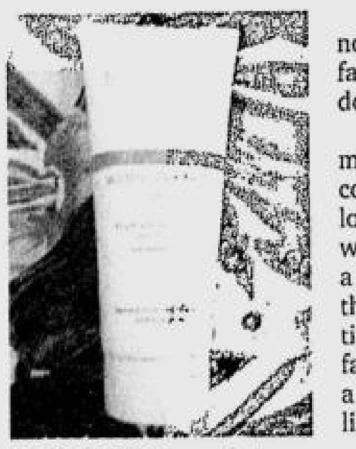
For daytime, sun protection is a must. L'Oreal White Perfect Triple Whitening Moisturizer with SPF 18 (P895) is what I have been wearing on a daily basis, whether staying indoors for work or briefly stepping out. It exfoliates dead skin cells, lightens to even out skin by suppressing melanin production, and protects the skin from the sun to prevent further darkening.

A new one I have not yet tried is Nivea's Whitening Sunblock SPF 30.

When expecting to be outdoors and under the sun for a long period, I bring out the big gun—VMV Armada Sport SPF 70 (P1,100) for face and body, which is sweat- and waterproof so you can expose beautiful skin but keep it shielded from the sun.

If you want a more matte finish on the face, though, Armada's SPF 45 or 60 does a great job of keeping you looking like a perfect porcelain doll.

It is during the evenings before hitting the bed that I use the strongest skin-brightening body product. Bear in mind though that I do not encourage actual bleaching or skin peeling to whiten the skin because the slightest sun exposure will make you burn faster and get dark uneven spots which make you look scarred or dirty.



L'OREAL White perfect SPF18 for body

My aim here is for everyone to get back their even-toned baby skin. Applying the stronger creams or serums at night is best because our skin repairs itself between 11 p.m.-4 a.m., so benefits are actually maximized as our skin will be more receptive to the treatment.

Expensive yet effective

The products mentioned below are expensive so apply them on damp skin after a shower so they can spread easier and more evenly. This means you will require less products to achieve desired results as more isn't exactly better—it can just mean a lot of wasted money.

Belo Body Whitening Cream comes in a huge 1 kg tub and costs a whopping P10,000. But it really works. If used properly the tub can last you six months or more.

I massage it on my elbows, knees, shoulders and back, which are tougher to lighten compared with the legs, arms and torso. This is not meant to be used on the face, so limit it to the neck down.

For those who want to multitask there is, of course, my regular Belo MD lotion (P1,150), which whitens and firms. This has a very runny texture, though, for easier absorption so it gets consumed faster. I go through mine in a month and it doesn't lighten as fast as the cream.

What I love about it, aside from the fact that it visibly whitens, is that my arms, thighs and abdomen jiggle a lot less after I've used it. The skin on my buttocks, thighs and chest are definitely more compact and firmer.

There is also Belo's Glutathione plus Alpha Lipoic Acid capsules (P4,700 for 60 tablets) which actually whiten your skin from the inside, working its way outside as a side effect of its anti-aging, anti-oxidant properties.

The capsules expel toxins from our bodies so our skin looks brighter.

The added ALA raises glutathione levels in our body, enabling it to fix any free-radical damage which causes premature aging and skin darkening.

Call 8442939 for Belo product inquiries.

Note: Due to the potency of the products, some require pre-consultation and skin-testing.

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COME black
OLD ROSE
FLAPPER mode
CINCH-ATIONAL
STRAIGHT-LACED
JAZZ nude

OLD-SCHOOL
STROLL in style

Class chic

Prada makes a millennial statement with vintage pieces

By Alex Y. Vergara

SUBTLE CONTRASTS AND heritage-inspired details characterized Prada's spring-summer collection. Consisting of shoes, bags and luxury RTW pieces, the collection was recently unveiled in a fashion show onboard the Jumbo floating restaurant in Hong Kong.

Pleated and floaty dresses, most of them in loose silhouettes, had a vintage feel to them that harked back to the 1920s and 1960s. To give the pale linen, chiffon and silk faille pieces some punch, Muccia Prada and her team embellished them with subtle embroidery and printing.

A few pieces appeared flat from afar, but upon closer scrutiny they came with such subtle details as pleating, piping and a hint of trimmings. The very collection itself was marked with contrasts, as the pale numbers were soon punctuated with pieces in black and hot pink.

"The collection is very Prada in the sense that it's simple-looking, but, at the same time, entails a lot of work," said Sebastian Suhl, Prada's chief executive officer. "It's a bit like haute couture already. The whole idea is romantic and a bit loose to appeal to the strong woman."

The inclusion of hot pink numbers with satin trims and inlays perhaps underscored the house's introduction of its shielding lip balm, which comes in hot, summery colors.

The same elegant restraint was evident in Prada's men's wear collection, which consists mostly of light-colored suits made of linen and various cotton blends. Printed shirts gave certain pieces the much-needed exclamation point.

Romance on the wedge

Prada's fascination with wicked-looking wedges, undeniably the heel of the moment, was still evident in chunky pieces made both of conventional and unconventional materials such as slim bamboo poles. The footwear's upper portions were made either of goat and patent leather.

"She's (Muccia) always been into wedges in different forms," said Suhl. "It's the shape she's loved forever."

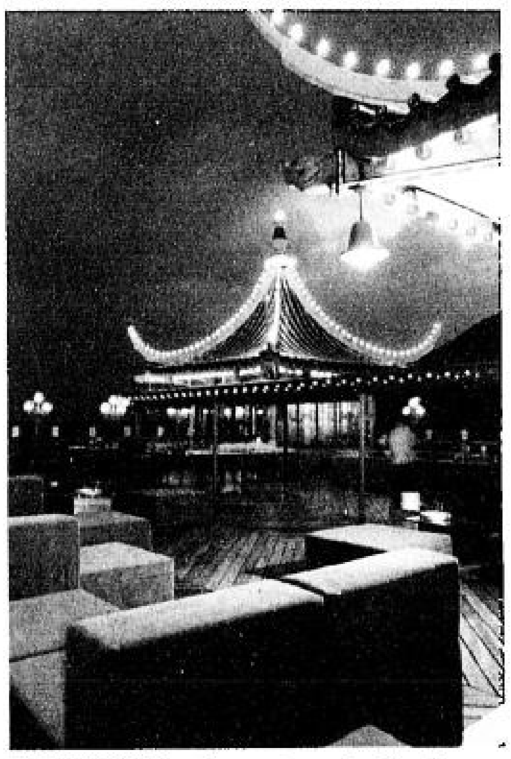
Bags remained an integral part of every Prada collection, and this time around the house did away with its trademark nylon purses and suitcases in favor of earth-colored carriers made from an interesting mix of leather, canvas, crocodile and various expensive animal skins.

Chic but seemingly high-maintenance linen bags, which echoed a number of details found in the clothes, also made the fashion cognoscenti's heads turn. Prada's current bag collection is reportedly part of the house's heritage series.

"It's not actually a repeat of vintage styles," Suhl explained. "The collection is more inspired by bags Mrs. Prada's granddad did when he launched the company during the turn of the last century. Nylon bags aren't dead at all. In fact, they're still a big part of our business."

Everything old is new again at Prada.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



THE JUMBO floating restaurant, site of Prada's recent Hong Kong show

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THE MALE MAKEOVER

Nu beau

Text by Juan Sarte III and Robbie Carmona
Photos by Raymund Isaac

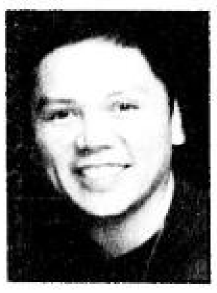
BLUE boy

before
JASON

Target:
Jason Pennings, 21
Mission:
From casual cool to modern male

Juan says:

I remember the days when men's skincare didn't go beyond soap and water. While women tried every skin potion available, men got stuck to the same germicidal soap for the body as for the face.



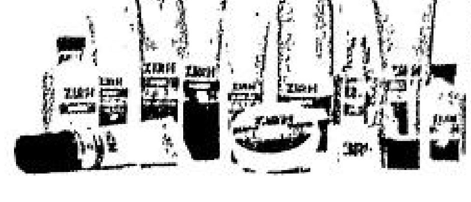
Well, times have changed. With new products especially formulated for the modern male, we, males, have become more and more aware of the benefits of having a solid skincare routine—a youthful, radiant appearance, healthier-looking skin and smoother shaves to name a few.

Women's skin concerns are not much different from ours. Just like them, our skin also needs the gentle cleansing, the nutrients and the pampering. Having a prescriptive skincare regimen should be as important to us as spending hours at the gym or fixing a business presentation for the next day. These days, it's not enough that we have it. We should be able to maintain it.

Accomplice: Zirh Skin Nutrition Products

Personalized skincare. Identify your skin type: dry, oily or combination skin. This will determine the frequency and amount of product to be used.

Dry skin will need more moisturizing; oily skin will need more cleansing; and a combination of these will need just the right amount of both.



ZIRH

If you stay under the sun a lot, you will need a product with SPF. Since Zirh products are generically named after its functions and benefits, pinpointing your skincare prescription will be effortless.

Core regimen. Your daily Zirh skin regimen consists of three simple steps: (1) Clean, an alpha-hydroxy facial cleanser that washes away dirt, oil and acne-causing bacteria; (2) Correct, a multivitamin problem-solver that replenishes vitamins and softens skin; and (3) Protect, a daily defense moisturizing lotion, or Defend, a light moisturizer with SPF 15.

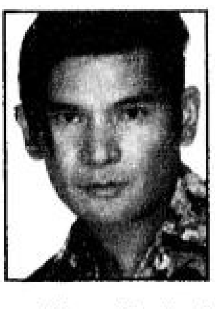
Trouble shooting. Combat skin problems with the rest of the Zirh concoctions. Scrub is an exfoliator that polishes and deep-cleans by sloughing off dead skin. Restore is an under-eye repair cream that reduces puffiness, dark circles and fine lines. Fix is a blemish-control gel that reduces pimples, whiteheads, blackheads, razor burns and ingrown hair. Clay Mask detoxifies your skin's surface and pores by absorbing impurities and excess oils.

Refresh is an invigorating astringent that deep-cleans pores, sweeps away excess oil and tightens skin.

Robbie says:

Over the years, man has evolved to keep up with fashion… from basic and clean lines to slim pants and fitted button-down shirts. His sense of style has reached a new height.

The new man is confident, fearless and not afraid to experiment in fashion. His closet is not confined to merely blacks and whites. He is not afraid to inject colors in his wardrobe without compromising his sexuality and personality. He dresses to live and not to impress. It is a style not inherited from his father but from an acquired taste.



Allow me to introduce to you the new man as envisioned by Dockers.

Accomplice: Levi's Dockers

Look 1: Put a dash of color to brighten up your day. Match your light-blue pants with a long-sleeved shirt to create a stunning look. Transform your necktie into a belt that is perfect for work and play.

Look 2: Blaze it up! Blazer + Henley shirt + bling-bling = Hottie!

STYLE blazer

BUM G image model LJ Reyes in pink baby tee

"PINOY Big Brother"'s Rico Barreira in Bum Equipment's latest summer tee

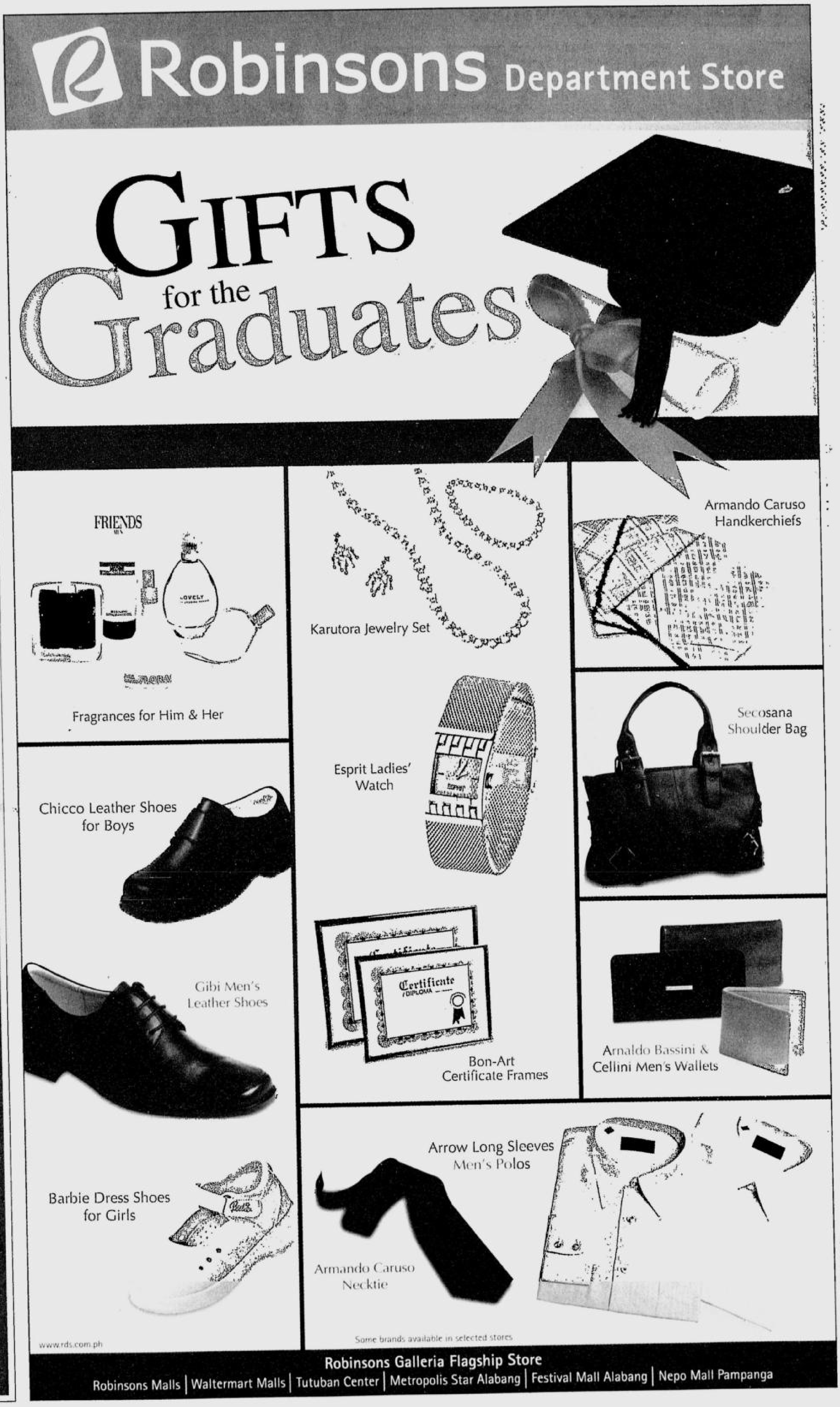
YOUNG actor/dancer Danilo Barrios in Bum Equipment's white summer tee

Wear and win the hottest summer spree

How can something so hot be so cool this summer? As the laid back vacation season ushers in, fashion likewise welcomes a shift to a breezier, younger, more comfortable take on summer staples. Bum Equipment. Whether in laidback jeans, baby tees, denim skirts and shorts and ultra cool clamdiggers, Bum Equipment is a much need breather from the glaring details and frou frous of the runway retail wears. This time around, Bum Equipment gives everyone more reason to move around, lounge around and yes, bum around without any inhibition.

Fashionable, functional and downright practical. Bum Equipment isn t only easy on the body, but easy on the pocket as well. And this summer, Bum Equipment gives everyone a bigger reason to indulge. Hot, hot prizes in store for the hip, trendy and fashionable Bum lovers! For every 500 worth of single receipt purchase of any regular priced Bum Equipment or Bum G product, everyone gets a raffle coupon. This will give the buyer a chance to win fabulous prizes. At stake are 2 KWEEKI 50 trends scooters, 5 brand new Nokia 3220 cellphones and 5 fashionable Apple I-Pod shuffles 512 MB MP3! So perfect and totally soooo cool for summer!

This special treat is good only from February 27 to April 30, 2006 and open only to Metro Manila and Luzon. Bum Equipment has 100 outlets nationwide. Now that gives you over 100 reasons to shop and hop to the nearest Bum Equipment store. Buy a Bum Equipment now, and win the coolest, trendiest summer equipment! For promo details, please visit any SM outlets for prizes and mechanics.



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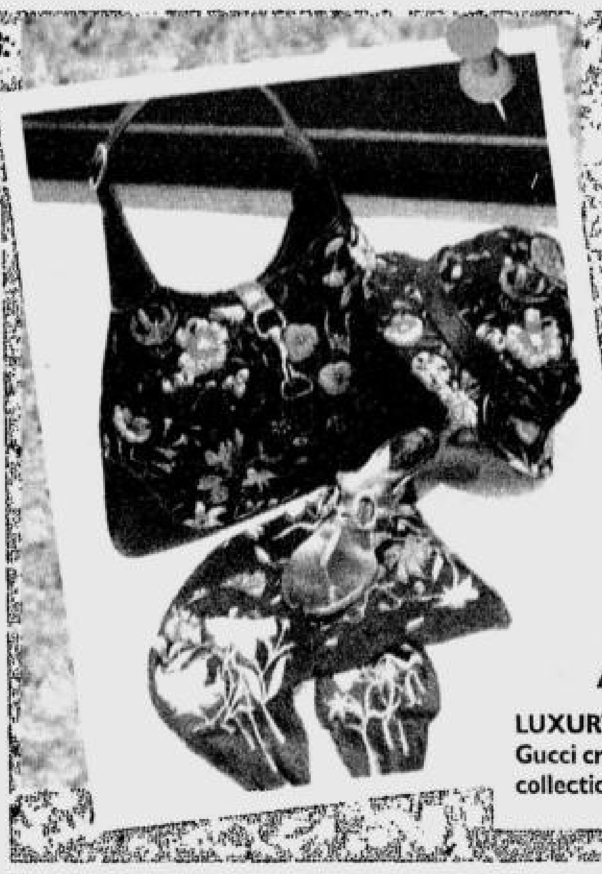
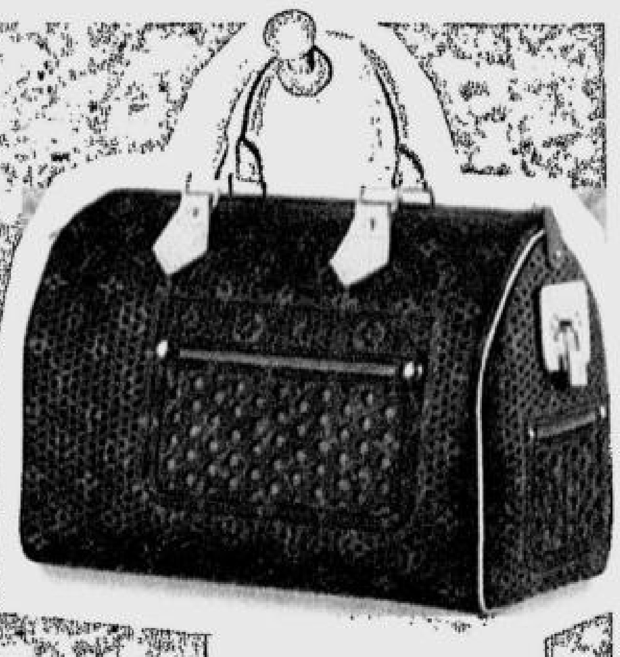
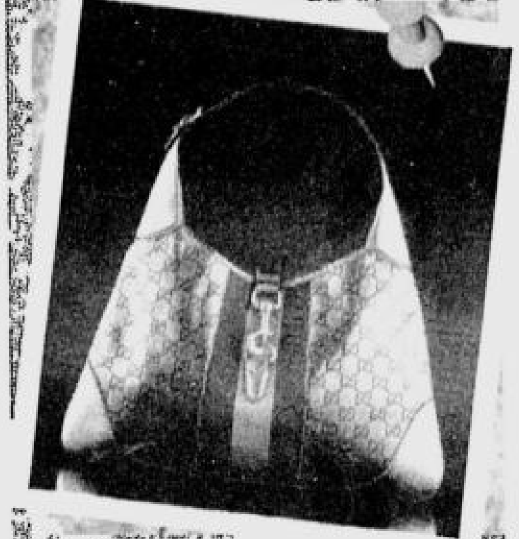


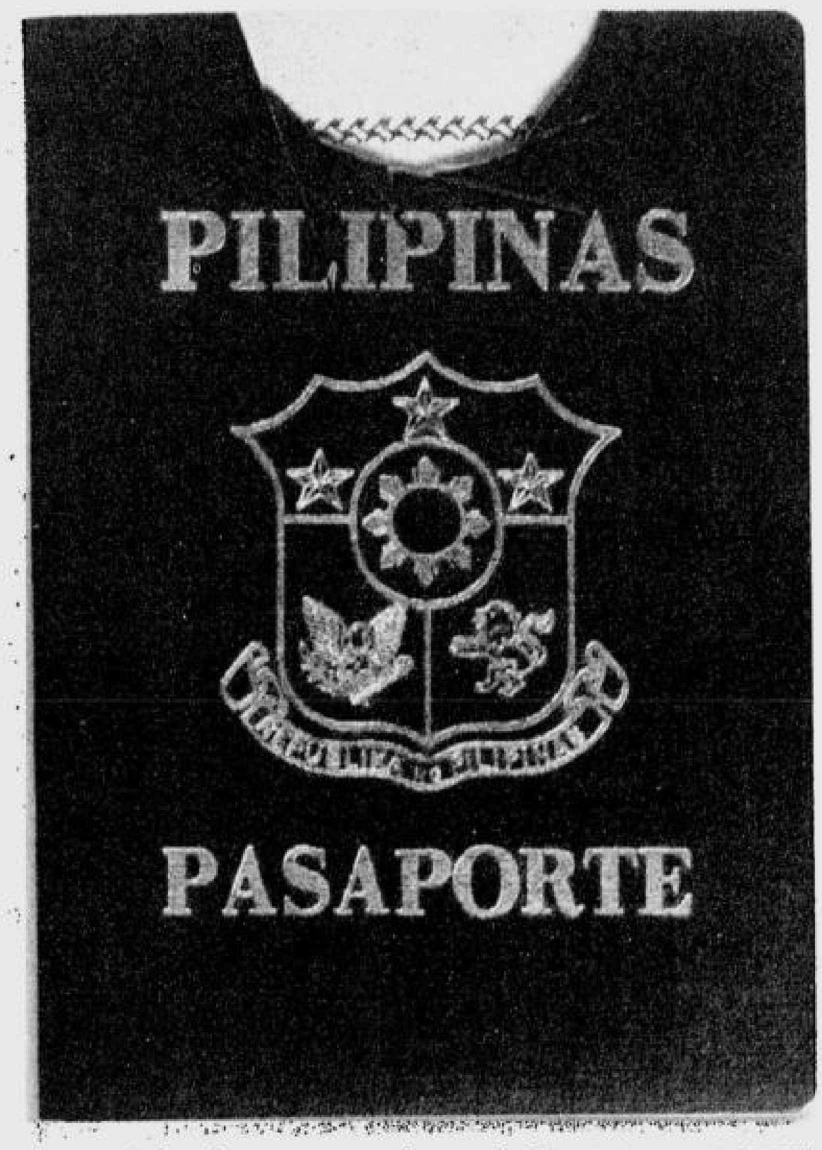
LUXURY CRUISE. Gucci cruise collection



HOLE IN ONE. LV Monogrammed Perfo



BAG OF GOLD. Gucci S/S 2006 Bouvier bag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Get clear skin this summer!

Summer is fast approaching but before you hit the beach, pack right. Do not underestimate the importance of getting that radiant skin.

Get started with Bench Papaya Whitening and Firming Soap with Seaweed Extract (P49.00). Made of the finest papaya and bearberry extracts, it helps peel off unwanted skin cells while its natural seaweed components that cleanse and help tighten the skin leaving it younger-looking and free from all blemishes. Also available is the Bench Papaya Moisturizing Soap with Milk for silkier, soft skin.

Treat yourself with the Bench Papaya Whitening and Firming Lotion (P85.00) and restore that youthful glow. It is especially formulated with natural extracts that gently exfoliate, whiten and tighten the skin.

After a long day under the sun, get refreshed with Bench Papaya Whitening and Firming Body Scrub (P179.00) enriched with Apricot seeds to gently exfoliate and radiate that healthier, fairer skin.

Discover your true beauty with Bench Organics Papaya Line. Get it at your nearest Bench, Herbench, Bench Body and PCX outlets nationwide.

PINOY HITS!

PHILAM LIFE

Buong Mundo, Saludo!

The Insurance Commission would like to extend its warmest felicitations to the awardees of Philamlife's 2006 National Recognition Program (NRP).

It is indeed a welcome development that Philamlife continues to lead the life insurance industry through its Agency Sales Force's top producers amidst a challenging economic environment. That this comes on the heels of the recent resurgence of the Filipino in the global community makes the NRP theme, "Pinoy Hits! Buong Mundo, Saludo!", much appropriate for the occasion.

With much appreciation, we highly commend you, the Philamlife NRP awardees, who will be recognized in this celebration for your tireless efforts and for championing the noble cause of the local life insurance industry.

On behalf of the Insurance Commission, please accept my sincerest congratulations.

HON. EVANGELINE C. ESCOBILLO
Commissioner
Insurance Commission

While Philamlife continues its life insurance market leadership in the Philippines, one of its key challenges is to grow its number of exceptional agents, such as those we celebrate today. These awardees do not share specific social status, educational background or previous work experience. What they do share is a [illegible] to get things done, a work ethic that does not give up and complete commitment to attend to the needs and wants of their clients.

While other companies talk about people being its greatest asset, we make a distinction in Philamlife. Here, the right people are our greatest asset. Our clients agree that's why we continue to insure more Filipino families than any other insurer today. Filipinos trust Philamlife and depend on their Philamlife agents to help them save, plan and insure their futures.

My heartiest congratulations to all awardees. Best wishes to you for even greater success in the years to come.

EDMUND S.W. TSE
Chairman of the Board

I have great pleasure in congratulating Philamlife's best at this year's National Recognition Program.

The agents we celebrate today know that success is no accident. It is a result of planning, hard work and determination. Many people have a dismissive view of agency work as just a matter of talk. What others do not appreciate is that a sale begins with forethought and planning. It combines intelligence and a special kind of savvy found in convincing and charismatic individuals. Agency sales is also attention to detail and a follow-through with service. But mostly, sales is about listening. How else can one succeed in insurance sales, if an agent does not listen attentively to the needs and wants of clients? How else can an agent pick-up on the subtexts of conversations? It is an agent's sensitivity to what is unspoken that makes him or her valuable to the client. I am proud to say that all our awardees tonight possess all these winning traits and are examples of what is best about Philamlife.

On behalf of the Philamlife Family, I thank all of our awardees for their perseverance in their sales vocation and their loyalty to the company. Their example of hard work and success are inspiration for both our agency and employee force to continue to do their best and are pillars of our continuous leadership and profitability.

JOSE L. CUISIA, JR.
President & Chief Executive Officer

From the late Ninoy Aquino's famous words, "*The Filipino is worth dying for*" to Orange and Lemons' most popular refrain today, "*Pinoy, Pinoy ako ...*", every Filipino generation has seen heroes and outstanding performers in their midst. Our celebration today highlights Philamlife's very own examples of world-class excellence. We take the greatest pride in extolling your virtues as well as your sterling accomplishments in the field of life insurance.

The arena you fought in last year was most definitely a tough one, filled with obstacles and challenges that tested your resolve to the hilt. It has often been said that to excel during easy times is expected, but to emerge at the top during difficult times is really something! While we may not have achieved all our collective goals in 2005, your accomplishments deserve our deepest admiration and resounding congratulations.

Once again, as we have always done for decades now, we take time out to cheer our best achievers, to revel in their triumphs, to reaffirm our role models. And even as we do so, we also hurl further challenges to you, our awardees, because, like Philamlife, you are not meant to stop your journey of success. This is, after all, a lifetime pursuit, one that doesn't look for the end of the line but lives for the journey itself. Stay on this path because Philamlife needs you and many more like you now more than ever. Let the love we feel for our company as well as the pride we hold dear for being Filipinos see us through.

Sulong Philamlife. Sulong Pilipino!

JESUS G. HOFILENA
Executive Vice President
Sales, Marketing & Training

My warmest 'Congratulations!' to all our 2006 awardees. You have proven once again that what was thought of to be unattainable can be achieved as long as we put hard work and our hearts into it. Your immeasurable efforts in overcoming countless challenges have paved your way for this prestigious award. As we celebrate this milestone in your career, I know that it is your earnest desire to significantly contribute to the company's vision of providing a Philamlife policy for every Filipino family. You have given your best, knowing that you would have made a difference in the lives of many. Truly an honorable deed.

You have demonstrated pure dedication to strive towards excellence. I am sure this attitude will allow you to face another challenging year and inspire you and others to move forward, hand in hand with our company's 'Sulong Philamlife' theme for fiscal year 2006.

Mabuhay!

ARIEL G. CANTOS
Senior Vice President
Chief Agency Officer

In the many years as agency manager with our company, my chief recollection of the Filipino as a successful insurance marketer is the innate sense to recognize an opportunity and the wisdom to take advantage of it. Everyone has had bad breaks, but everyone also has opportunities. The Filipino agent who recognizes and [illegible] takes his chances will lead on.

Some of the Filipino traits that characterize a top notch achiever, I found out, are the capacity to endure hardships the long hours devoted for work, faithfulness to the demands of the profession's calling – keeping daily appointments, performing work better than an 'average' agent does, rendering the most and best service possible to clients; and, passing through difficult times bravely and cheerfully making several sales calls and not getting a closed deal - but staying firm in a resolve to make one more call!

Yes, the true Filipino agent will pursue his goal to the end, if not in the glory of dazzling achievement, at least in the nobility of a task faithfully done.

'Truly there is truth to the saying we now constantly hear globally: Filipino, ang galing mo!'

Congratulations! To all our 2006 Awardees, you represent the best in Filipinos. May your numbers increase year after year.

JOSE ISAGANI F. ANTONIO
Hall of Fame Awardee

Associates of the Year

Career Agent Category

Philamlife's Top Career Agents who achieved the honor and distinction of being the Company's most productive Career Agents for Recognition Year 2006.

They stand out among a field of more than 9,000 Career Agents nationwide.

AGENT OF THE YEAR

LUCILA H. KIERULF
Del Mundo Associates
Top National

ROSARIO C. SALIENTES
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
Top Manila

BIENVENIDO M. LUMAAD
Pagadian-Tamala Agency
Top Provincial

MA. ELENA G. ASTURIAS
Del Mundo Associates
1st Runner-up Manila

ELENITA V. BELIGANIO
Bulacan-Maturino Agency
1st Runner-up Provincial

Unit Manager Category

Philamlife's Top Unit Managers who achieved the honor and distinction of being the Company's most productive Unit Managers for Recognition Year 2006.

UNIT MANAGER OF THE YEAR

MA. ZENAIDA N. ANTONIO
Antonio Associates
Top National

ANNA CONCEPCION C. BLANCO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
Top Manila

VICENTE G. TAN
Cebu-Tan Agency
Top Provincial

NILDA C. UY
Del Mundo Associates
1st Runner-up Manila

FELISA S. PINEDA
Central Luzon Direct
1st Runner-up Provincial

Agency Manager Category

Philamlife's Top Agency Managers who achieved the honor and distinction of being the Company's most productive Agency Managers for Recognition Year 2006.

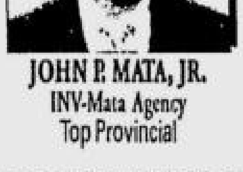
AGENCY MANAGER OF THE YEAR

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, ***LUTCF***
Del Mundo Associates
Top National

VERONICA S. GONZALEZ

ROSARIO C. SALIENTES

Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
Top Manila



JOHN P. MATA, JR.
INV-Mata Agency
Top Provincial

JUAN A. TAN
Tan Associates
1st Runner-up Manila

MELBA L. TAN
Cebu-Tan Agency
1st Runner-up Provincial

Premier AGENTS CLUB

This elite club recognizes distinguished members for their superior performance in quality business, exceptional first year production and professional agency values.

They stand as vanguards, leading the field in exceptional professionalism --- such is the hallmark of a premier agent of the premier Company.

PLATINUM

SHIRLEY L. CO
Tan Associates

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, LUTCF
Del Mundo Associates

ANTONINA S. SOLOMON
Sallentes-Gonzalez Associates

NANCY BAUTISTA-ESPIRITU
Espiritu Associates

ELENITA V. BELIGANIO
Bulacan-Maturino Agency

MA. TERESA D. HERNANDEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

GOLD

CORAZON KI ANG
CK Ang Associates

MA. EDITHA S. PEÑAFLOR
Antonio Associates

THERESITAS N. PANOPIO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

MARISSA V. TAGUINOD
INV-Mata Agency

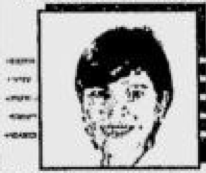
FLORENTINA M. ARDIDON
Ardidon Associates

RODOLFO M. MALLARI
Pampanga-Del Rosario Agency

PERLA O. ARGUELLES
Iloilo-Buenconsejo Agency

EDEN L. JALOSJOS
Del Mundo Associates

NANCY S. UY
Del Mundo Associates


MA.ANTONIETTA Q. DEL MUNDO, FLMI
Mortel Associates

YOLANDA A. MORTEL, LUTCF
Mortel Associates

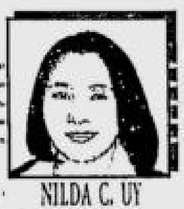
MARICHELE C. GREGORIO
Cebu-Tan Agency

TERESITA R. CABARRUBIA
Mortel Associates

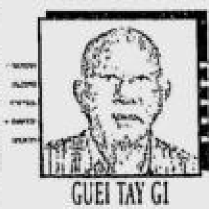
MA. VIRGINIA O. BAUTISTA
Melendres Associates

SILVER

LOURDES V. GLORIA, LUTCF
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates


NILDA C. UY
Del Mundo Associates

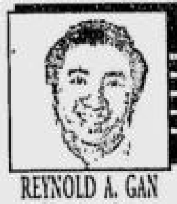
MA. LUZ S. VENCIO
Del Mundo Associates


GUEI TAY GI
Tan Associates

MA. FATIMA R. RODRIGUEZ
Pampanga-Del Rosario Agency

IRENE B. VILLENA
Cavite-Medrano Agency

ERIC G. NICDAO
Nicdao Associates


REYNOLD A. GAN
Gan Associates

JOSE ELMER C. JAMORA
Pagadian-Tamala Agency

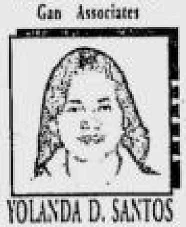
MA. ZENAIDA N. ANTONIO
Antonio Associates

VERONICA S. GONZALEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

JEANETTE C. FABICO
Tan Associates

EDGAR C. BARTOLATA
Del Mundo Associates

ELENA R. KAMID
Ramos Associates


YOLANDA D. SANTOS
Mendoza Associates

PATRICIA W. YAM, LUTCF
Yam Associates

ALMA E. LLORENTE
Del Mundo Associates

ROSSANNA S. UY
Del Mundo Associates

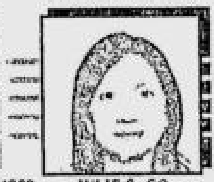
LEONILA F. SANTIAGO
Nueva-Reyes Agency

DEBBIE S. KOO
Tan Associates

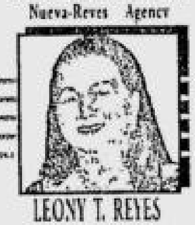
MABEL MADELEINE T. PO
Cebu-Tan Agency

EDGARDO B. MALLARI
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

MA. ANUNCIACION C. GOQUINGCO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates


JULIE S. GO
Cuaso Associates

SALUD P. CAPILI
Capili Associates


LEONY T. REYES
Herrera Associates

KARLA M. CAPILI
Capili Associates

MILLION DOLLAR ROUND TABLE

AGENTS WHO SATISFIED THE PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2006 MDRT

The Million Dollar Round Table, founded in 1927, is a forum designed to foster the highest standards of professional approach to selling life insurance and servicing policyholders.

Without a doubt, the MDRT shines out as the most prestigious association of life insurance professionals worldwide.

ROSARIO C. SALIENTES*
Honor Roll & Qualifying Member
12-Time Top of the Table

LUCILA H. KIERULF*
8 years Qualifying Member
Top of the Table

MA. ELENA G. ASTURIAS*
13 years Qualifying & Life Member
Court of the Table

MA. TERESA D. HERNANDEZ*
2 years Qualifying Member
Court of the Table

CORAZON KI ANG*
Honor Roll & Qualifying Member

RODOLFO M. MALLARI*
Honor Roll & Qualifying Member

YOLANDA A. MORTEL, LUTCF*
14 years Qualifying & Life Member

VALERIE U. WONG DE LEON, LUTCF*
10 years Qualifying Member

PATRICIA W. YAM, LUTCF
10 years Qualifying Member

ANTONINA S. SOLOMON
9 years Qualifying Member

SHIRLEY L. CO
9 years Qualifying Member

TERESITA R. CABARRUBIA*
8 years Qualifying Member

NILDA C. UY*
8 years Qualifying Member

ZENAIDA A. PALMES*
8 years Qualifying Member

NANCY BAUTISTA-ESPIRITU
7 years Qualifying Member

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, LUTCF
7 years Qualifying Member

LOURDES E. BERNARDO*
7 years Qualifying Member

MA. EDITHA S. PEÑAFLOR
7 years Qualifying Member

FLORENTINA M. ARDIDON*
6 years Qualifying Member

ANUNCIACION C. BIROG*
6 years Qualifying Member

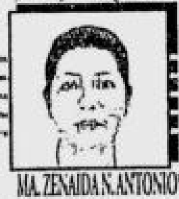
THERESITAS N. PANOPIO
5 years Qualifying Member

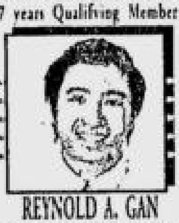
MARISSA V. TAGUINOD
5 years Qualifying Member

MA. LUZ S. VENCIO*
5 years Qualifying Member

MA. ANTONIETTA Q. DEL MUNDO, FLMI*
4 years Qualifying Member

VERONICA S. GONZALEZ
4 years Qualifying Member


MA. ZENAIDA N. ANTONIO*
4 years Qualifying Member


REYNOLD A. GAN
4 years Qualifying Member

MARICHELE C. GREGORIO
3 years Qualifying Member

DAISY U. SERRANO*
3 years Qualifying Member

PERLA O. ARGUELLES*
3 years Qualifying Member

FERNANDO F. PALCON*
3 years Qualifying Member

EDEN L. JALOSJOS*
3 years Qualifying Member

JEANETTE C. FABICO*
3 years Qualifying Member

MA. LETICIA G. ALLADO
3 years Qualifying Member

ERIC G. NICDAO*
3 years Qualifying Member

EMMA A. YUHICO*
3 years Qualifying Member

ELENITA V. BELIGANIO*
2 years Qualifying Member

MARY GRACE L. SILVA*
2 years Qualifying Member

CONSOLACION C. BLANCO*
2 years Qualifying Member

MILAGROS R. SOREACH*
2 years Qualifying Member

MA. VIRGINIA O. BAUTISTA
2 years Qualifying Member

NANCY S. UY
2 years Qualifying Member

JAY ARNOLD C. MENES
2 years Qualifying Member

EDGAR M. DUMAYAS
2 years Qualifying Member

ROSSANNA S. UY*
2 years Qualifying Member

ALMA E. LLORENTE
2 years Qualifying Member

BIENVENIDO M. LUMAAD*
Qualifying Member

DOMINGO P. REYES*
Qualifying Member

JOSEFINO R. STO. DOMINGO, FLMI
Qualifying Member

REMEDIOS L. NGO*
Qualifying Member

RENATO L. CUISIA*
Qualifying Member

JOSE ELMER C. JAMORA*
Qualifying Member

AUSTIN H. GO*
Qualifying Member

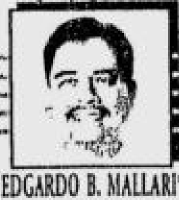
DEBBIE S. KOO*
Qualifying Member

MARYLOU F. DEL ROSARIO*
Qualifying Member

MA. CONCEPCION H. CUISIA*
Qualifying Member

AILEEN S. DE JOYA, LUTCF*
Qualifying Member

ANA MAY V. REGALA*
Qualifying Member


EDGARDO B. MALLARI*
Qualifying Member

LAURA F. SALVADOR*
Qualifying Member

MABEL MADELEINE T. PO*
Qualifying Member

YOLANDA D. SANTOS*
Qualifying Member

SALVACION S. CONTRERAS*
Qualifying Member

KARLA M. CAPILI*
Qualifying Member

• based on latest official records of MDRT as of printing

Honor Roll - at least 15 years MDRT Qualifier
Qualifying & Life Member - at least 10 consecutive years MDRT Qualifier
** Candidate for 2006 Qualifying Member (membership processing on-going)*

PHILAM LIFE
AIG A Member of

CHAIRMAN'S CABINET

Membership in this exclusive honor club, dedicated to Philamlife's Chairman, Edmund S.W. Tse, is limited to the top 15% of Philamlife's outstanding Agency Leaders.

AGENCY CATEGORY

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, *LUTCF*
Del Mundo Associates

DIRECT UNIT CATEGORY

VERONICA S. GONZALEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

ROSARIO C. SALIENTES
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

MA. ZENAIDA N. ANTONIO
Antonio Associates

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, *LUTCF*
Del Mundo Associates

REYNALDO M. MORTEL
Mortel Associates

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

In the tradition of excellence, these Agency Leaders have distinguished themselves with exceptional First Year Production for Recognition Year 2006.

AGENCY CATEGORY

VERONICA S. GONZALEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

ROSARIO C. SALIENTES
Salientes-Gonzalez

JUAN A. TAN
Tan Associates

JOHN P. MATA, JR.
INV-Mata Agency

MELBA L. TAN
Cebu-Tan Agency

JULIUS A. REYES
Nueva-Reyes Agency

REYNALDO N. MORTEL
Mortel Associates

PABLO O. TAMALA, JR.
Pagadian-Tamala Agency

CRISA G. NICDAO
Nicdao Associates

ERIC G. NICDAO
Nicdao Associates

PRISCILO E. COMIA
Batangas-Comia Agency

ISMAEL L. MELENDRES
Melendres Associates

CECILIA A. MELENDRES
Melendres Associates

DIRECT UNIT CATEGORY

GREGORIO V. TONGKO
Tongko Associates

ANNA CONCEPCION C. BLANCO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

NILDA C. UY
Del Mundo Associates

MA ELENA G. ASTURIAS
Del Mundo Associates

CRISA G. NICDAO
Nicdao Associates

ERIC G. NICDAO
Nicdao Associates

ANTONINA A. DEL ROSARIO
Pampanga-Del Rosario Agency

SEGUNDINA O. TAN
Tan Associates

VICENTE G. TAN
Cebu-Tan Agency

KARLA M. CAPILI
Capili Associates

FELISA S. PINEDA
Central Luzon Direct

PRISCILO E. COMIA
Batangas-Comia Agency

ISMAEL L. MELENDRES
Melendres Associates

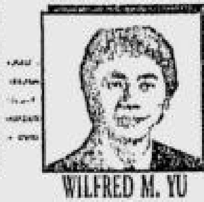
CECILIA A. MELENDRES
Melendres Associates

ADORACION P. PENALES
Cebu-Tan Agency

RENATO D. PEREZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

CARLITO A. CAMANSE
Pagadian-Tamala Agency

NELIA L. LAUDICO
Del Mundo Associates

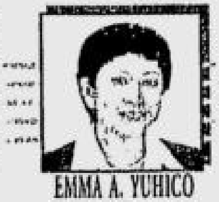

WILFRED M. YU
Yu Associates

PERLITA O. CAHAPAY
Ardidon Associates

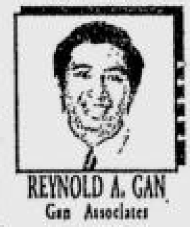
JEANETTE C. FABICO
Tan Associates

CARMELITA S. CRUZ
Bulacan-Pagaduan Agency

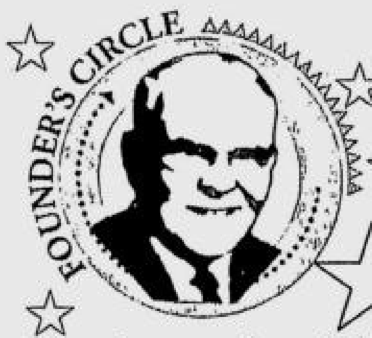
DEBBIE S. KOO
Tan Associates


EMMA A. YUHICO
Melendres Associates

LOURDES V. GLORIA, *LUTCF*
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates


REYNOLD A. GAN
Gan Associates

CORAZON C. RAMOS
Ramos Associates



A five-time member of the Chairman's Board earns the rank and privilege to be elevated to Philamlife's highest honor club.

This club extols the memory of Philamlife's Founder and First President, Earl Caroll.

These are the true professionals who represent excellence and commitment.

LUCILA H. KIERULF
Del Mundo Associates

ROSARIO C. SALIENTES
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

MA ELENA G. ASTURIAS
Del Mundo Associates

NANCY BAUTISTA-ESPIRITU
Espiritu Associates

ANTONINA S. SOLOMON
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

SHIRLEY L. CO
Tan Associates

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, *LUTCF*
Del Mundo Associates

TERESITA R. CABARRUBIA
Mortel Associates

THERESITAS N. PANOPIO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

RODOLFO M. MALLARI
Pampanga-Del Rosario

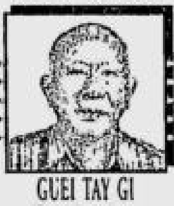
LOURDES E. BERNARDO
Bernardo Associates

YOLANDA A. MORTEL, *LUTCF*
Mortel Associates

CORAZON KI ANG
CK Ang Associates

NILDA C. UY
Del Mundo Associates

ZENAIDA A. PALMES
Del Mundo Associates


GUEI TAY GI
Tan Associates

ANUNCIACION C. BIROG
Del Mundo Associates

SALUD P. CAPILI
Capili Associates

FE S. DE DIOS
Del Mundo Associates

CHAIRMAN'S BOARD

This exclusive honor club, dedicated to Philamlife's Chairman, Edmund S.W. Tse, counts among its members the top 15% of Philamlife's outstanding Career Agents.

They are the true pacesetters of the agency force who exemplify growth and strength, characteristics of intensely dedicated men and women.

MA. TERESA D.HERNANDEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

BIENVENIDO M. LUMAAD
Pagadian-Tamala Agency

DOMINGO P. REYES
Del Mundo Associates

ELENITA V. BELIGANIO
Bulacan-Maturino Agency

MARICHELE C. GREGORIO
Cebu-Tan Agency

MARY GRACE L. SILVA
Del Mundo Associates

JOSEFINO R. STO DOMINGO, *FLMI*
Sto. Domingo Associates

DAISY U. SERRANO
Capili Associates

IQA
INTERNATIONAL QUALITY AWARD

The mark of a career underwriter is exemplified by this worldwide symbol of excellence. Membership to this club is measured by persistency --- the number of clients who keep their policies in-force for many years. Persistent business is the seal of a true professional.

SHIRLEY L. CO
Tan Associates

CHAN SIU ENG
Tan Associates

GUEI TAY GI
Tan Associates

MA. LETICIA G. ALLADO
Melendres Associates

YOLANDA A. MORTEL, *LUTCF*
Mortel Associates

THERESITAS N. PANOPIO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

FLORA G. ARELLANO
Batangas-Comia Agency

JAIME A. CAOMATE
Davao Direct

PATRICIA A. SARDALLA, *FLMI*
Tongko Associates

ANGELITA T. MANDANI
Central Luzon Direct

ALICIA S. AQUILINO
CK Ang Associates

NILDA C. UY
Del Mundo Associates

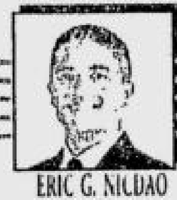
NORMA A. DE VENECIA
Del Mundo Associates

MA THERESA E. LUCILA
Salientes-Gonzalez

EUFROSINA L. NAPA
Batangas Comia Agency

NORMITA G. VENERACION
Bulacan Pagaduan Agency

MAXIMA M. ALVERO
Laguna Falsgue Agency


ERIC G. NICDAO
Nicdao Associates

CONCEPCION C. GUEVARRA
Nueva-Reyes Agency

EDEN L. JALOSJOS
Del Mundo Associates

RODEL A. ANDRES
INV-Mata Agency

MA. ROSARIO F. LUMANLAN
Deveza Associates

AMELITA O. CORDERO
Bacolod-Bobe Agency

REYNOLD A. GAN
Gan Associates

JOCELYN P. SECRETARIO
Antonio Associates

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American International Group, Inc.

PHILAM LIFE

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

In the tradition of excellence, these Career Agents have distinguished themselves with exceptional First Year Production for Recognition Year 2006.

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Antonio Associates

FLORENTINA M. ARDIDON
Ardidon Associates

REMEDIOS L. NGO
Espiritu Associates

MILAGROS R. SOREACH
Cebu-Tan Agency

MA. ANTONIETTA Q. DEL MUNDO, FLMI
Del Mundo Associates

MA. VIRGINIA O. BAUTISTA
Melendres Associates

PERLA O. ARGUELLES
Iloilo-Buenconsejo Agency

EDEN L. JALOSJOS
Del Mundo Associates

JOSE ELMER C. JAMORA
Pagadian-Tamala Agency

NANCY S. UY
Del Mundo Associates

MA. EDITHA S. PENAFLOR
Antonio Associates

EDGAR M. DUMAYAS
La Trinidad-Flores Agency

MARISSA V. TAGUINOD
INV-Mata Agency

MA. LUZ S. VENCIO
Del Mundo Associates

MA ZENAIDA N. ANTONIO
Antonio Associates

BARTOLOME R. CRUZ
Bulacan-Pagaduan Agency

DEBBIE S. KOO
Tan Associates

MABEL MADELEINE T. PO
Cebu-Tan Agency

VERONICA S. GONZALEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

ELENA R. KAMID
Ramos Associates

YOLANDA D. SANTOS
Mendoza Associates

MA. FATIMA R. RODRIGUEZ
Pampanga-Del Rosario Agency

ERIC G. NICDAO
Nicdao Associates

JEANETTE C. FABICO
Tan Associates

EDGARDO B. MALLARI
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

PATRICIA W. YAM, LUTCF
Yam Associates

JULIE S. GO
Cuaso Associates

PATRICIA A. SARDALLA, FLMI
Tongko Associates

SHIRLEY M. MORTEL
Mortel Associates

REYNOLD A. GAN
Gan Associates

EMERITA C. GULINAO
Capule Associates

PERLITA O. CAHAPAY
Ardidon Associates

LILY T. SY CHUA
Yu Associates

ALMA E. LLORENTE
Del Mundo Associates

ROSSANNA S. UY
Del Mundo Associates

IRENE B. VILLENA
Cavite-Medrano Agency

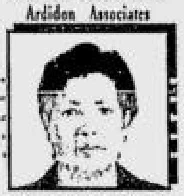
EMMA A. YUHICO
Melendres Associates

EDNA J. PARRENO
Tongko Associates

MA. LETICIA G. ALLADO
Melendres Associates

MA. ANUNCIACION C. GOQUINGCO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

LAURA F. SALVADOR
Ardidon Associates


LEONILA F. SANTIAGO
Nueva-Reyes Agency

ELIZABETH S. DALISAY
Bulacan-Sebastian Agency

LEONY T. REYES
Herrera Associates

KARLA M. CAPILI
Capili Associates

LOURDES V. GLORIA, LUTCF
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

LING LING S. LEE
CK Ang Associates

VALERIE U. WONG DE LEON, LUTCF
Tan Associates

FUND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TOP FUTURE FUND CONTRIBUTOR

AGENCY CATEGORY

ANTONINA A. DEL ROSARIO
Pampanga-Del Rosario Agency

AGENT CATEGORY

PAULITA S. MISAYAH
Pampanga-Del Rosario Agency

FUTURE FUND AWARDEE

AGENCY CATEGORY

JUAN A. TAN
Tan Associates

AGENT CATEGORY

SHIRLEY L. CO
Tan Associates

JENNY Y. TAN
Monteverde Associates

SETTLEMENT OPTION PLUS AWARDEE

AGENT CATEGORY

CHAN SIU ENG
Tan Associates

PHILAM LIFE
GROUP & CREDIT INSURANCE

GROUP LIFE

ENRICO FELIX BAUTISTA
Cuaso Associates
GROUP MASTERS AWARDEE

AIDA C. MATTI
Antonio Associates
COMPACT CHAMPION AWARDEE

GROUP A&H MERIT AWARD

PATRICIA A. DONGALLO
Espiritu Associates

CREDIT LIFE

EDITHA J. PRADO
Davao-Huyatid Agency
CREDIT LIFE LEGACY AWARDEE

ELITE AGENCY AWARD

CARLOS S. HUYATID
Davao-Huyatid Agency
CREDIT LIFE TOP AGENCY AWARDEE

ANATALIA W. BRIONES
Ardidon Associates
GROUP LIFE TOP AGENCY AWARDEE

ACCIDENT & HEALTH

AGENCY MANAGER CATEGORY

NATIONAL

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, LUTCF
Del Mundo Associates

METRO MANILA

VERONICA S. GONZALEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

ROSARIO C. SALIENTES
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

PROVINCIAL

JOHN P. MATA, JR.
INV-Mata Agency

UNIT MANAGER CATEGORY

NATIONAL

MA. ZENAIDA N. ANTONIO
Antonio Associates

METRO MANILA

LUCILA H. KIERULF
Del Mundo Associates

PROVINCIAL

ARNOLD DJ ARTETA
Camarines-Dela Rosa Agency

AGENT CATEGORY

NATIONAL

LUCILA H. KIERULF
Del Mundo Associates

METRO MANILA

LEONILA R. RAMOS
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

PROVINCIAL

ARTURO P. MUYCO, JR.
Iloilo-Gonzaga Agency

TAMARAW QUALIFIERS 2006

AGENT CATEGORY

EDGAR C. BARTOLATA
Del Mundo Associates

ADELAIDE H. YAP
Davao Direct

MA TERESA V. MARALIT
Deveza Associates

CHAN SIU ENG
Tan Associates

EUSEBIA M. MAGSINO
Batangas-Comia Agency

THELMA P. ACUNA
Altarejos Agency

METHODIO V. MAGNAYE
Capule Associates

PERLA C. URTULA
Dy Associates

ANA MAY V. REGALA
Antonio Associates

FRISCA F. PONAY
Cebu-Tan Agency

MARIO S. BUTAD
Pagadian-Tamala Agency

ESTELA C. BELEN
Laguna-Falague Agency

MA LOURDES L. RIVERA
Bagul Associates

MA CHITA D. CALANGI
Salientes-Gonzalez Assoc.

TERESA C. SOLIS
Salientes-Gonzalez Assoc.

LUISITO S. LAUDICO
Del Mundo Associates

VIRGILIO V. HERNANDEZ
Antonio Associates

NOVELYN P. DOMINGO
Inv-Mata Agency

JENNY Y. TAN
Tan Associates

GERALDINE MARIE A. LIMPO
Melendres Associates

MILAGROS I. GATDULA
Laguna-Falague Agency

MA ARMINDA P. ENDRIGA
Salientes-Gonzalez Assoc.

EUFROSINA L. NAPA
Batangas-Comia Agency

LUCENA SD. MAJADAS
Rizal-Maunahan Agency

EDA C. BAUTISTA
Ardidon Associates

ROGELIO N. PEREYRA
Bulacan-Maturino Agency

AIDA C. MATTI
Antonio Associates

EMMA B. ESPIRITU
Gan Associates

MARCELINE M. PAY OC
Baguio-Doculan Agency

CORAZON C. RAMOS
Ramos Associates

SUSANA C. PIAD
Nueva-Reyes Agency

EVANGELINA R. REYES
Del Mundo Associates

POTENCIANO C. CARAIG
Batangas-Cunanan Agency

URBECIA R. CASTANARES
Dy Associates

ROWENA A. YU
Cuaso Associates

ERLINDA S. CANDO
Salientes-Gonzalez Assoc.

FERDINAND S. CRUZ
Mendoza Associates

LJ H. JALANDONI
Salientes-Gonzalez Assoc.

LELITA A. GUZMAN
Gan Associates

ANDREA D. PAMINTUAN
Cotabato-Jerez Agency

MANUEL V. MIRASOL
Nicdao Associates

MA ESTRELLA C. MATUNOG
Cebu-Tan Agency

AGENCY CATEGORY

ANTONINA A. DEL ROSARIO
Pampanga-Del Rosario Agency

SERAFIO G. MAUNAHAN
Rizal-Maunahan Agency

GREGORIO V. TONGKO
Tongko Associates

RUBEN E. FALAGUE
Laguna-Falague Agency

HENRY M. ESPIRITU
Espiritu Associates

NANCY BAUTISTA-ESPIRITU
Espiritu Associates

ESTRELLA P. ALTAREJOS
Altarejos Agency

WILFRED M. YU
Yu Associates

DIRECT UNIT CATEGORY

CARLOS C. VENERACION
Bulacan-Pagaduan Agency

SUSAN M. ALVAREZ
Nueva-Reyes Agency

HENRY M. ESPIRITU
Espiritu Associates

NANCY R. BAUTISTA-ESPIRITU
Espiritu Associates

TERESITA G. MONTEVERDE
Tan Associates

LEONIDA D. ROQUE
L. Roque Associates

JOSEFINA S. HIPOL
Mm East Direct

EDUARDO A. FORDAN
Antonio Associates

SUSAN M. GAYATIN
Cebu-Tan Agency

GINA M. FRANCISCO
Mendoza Associates

EDNA A. GAN
Gan Associates

CARINA G. LU
Tan Associates

SERAPIO G. MAUNAHAN
Rizal-Maunahan Agency

MODESTO T. MEDRANO
Cavite-Medrano Agency

CORAZON K. ANG
Ck Ang Associates

ELENITA V. BELIGANIO
Bulacan-Maturino Agency

ESPERANZA T. BUENCONSEJO
Iloilo-Buenconsejo Agency

FERNANDO A. COSTES
N. Luzon-Costes Agency

LEONILA A. BRITANIA
Bongala Associates

REYNALDO R. BIROG
Del Mundo Associates

CESAR M. ONATE
Antonio Associates

PATRICIA W. YAM
Yam Associates

JOSE ELMER C. JAMORA
Pagadian-Tamala Agency

EVELYN T. TUASON
Del Mundo Associates

ISABELA P. CARREON
Salientes-Gonzalez Assoc.

JOSEFINO R. STO DOMINGO, FLMI
Sto Domingo Associates

ANATALIA W. BRIONES
Ardidon Associates

RAMONCITO R. MALIWANAG
Quezon-Maliwanag Agency

ISABEL C. TRANGIA
Batangas-Comia Agency

EDERLINA T. OLEGARIO
Antonio Associates

EMELITA C. VENDIL
Bulacan-Sebastian Agency

JOSE J. MENDOZA
Inv-Mata Agency

FERDINAND P. AQUINO
Pampanga-Aquino Agency

CHARITO H. AZARIAS
Davao Direct

REMEDIOS L. NGO
Espiritu Associates

NELIA M. ZABALERIO
Cavite Zabalerio Agency

SILVANO T. ORTEGA
Pampanga-Del Rosario Agency

MYRA CLAIRE C. GARCIA
Bacolod-Sy Agency

FE S. DE DIOS
Del Mundo Associates

JOSE JANUARIO A. TRIJO
Herrera Associates

ROMEO M. FERNANDO
Bulacan-Sebastian Agency

YOLANDA ML. ALTAVAS
Panay-Altavas Agency

MA THERESA L. SOLON
Del Mundo Associates

ANTONIO S. LAPADA
Rizal-Maunahan Agency

ADELAIDA C. HERNANDEZ
Antonio Associates

LILIA M. BORROMEO
Inv-Mata Agency

MA CARMELA G. SEMPIO
Melendres Associates

GRACE S. CRUZ
Mendoza Associates

JOSEPH B. RULLA
Baguio-Rulla Agency

BASILISA B. MONTOYA
Nicdao Associates

LEONARDO M. PALCUTAN
Iloilo-Palcutan Agency

NORMA C. MAGPANTAY
Del Mundo Associates

LEORANDO G. CUNANAN
Batangas-Cunanan Agency

VIRGINIA T. EUGENIO
Inv-Mata Agency

NORMA MARLE A. CANTA
Bacolod-Sy Agency

CONTESSA MAY G. SANTOS
Iloilo-Gonzaga Agency

ADRIANA C. TAN
R. Tan Associates

JOSE E. VELASCO III
Cuaso Associates

NILDA B. SUMABAT
Dy Associates

PRESCILLA T. BEDIA
Cotabato-Jerez Agency

LEONILA F. SANTIAGO
Nueva-Reyes Agency

ORLANDO G. GUBA
N. Luzon-Costes Agency

ANNIEFE L. RODRIGUEZ
Cavite-Varias Agency

ANICIA Q. DE GUZMAN
N. Luzon-Costes Agency

EVANGELISTA L. MACANAS
Cotabato-Jerez Agency

FRANCISCO C. GARCIA III
Vigan-Singson Agency

MELANIE T. LAGO
Melendres Associates

ELISA M. DOLOR
Batangas-Clet Agency

LETICIA E. SANTOS
Espiritu Associates

NITA B. DE GOMA
Cavite-Medrano Agency

RAQUEL D. AGUSTIN
Ilocos-Abra Agency

EDUVEGES A. FLORES
Zamboanga Direct Agency

DANILO M. DE GUZMAN
Baguio-Rulla Agency

NOVELYN P. DOMINGO
Inv-Mata Agency

FLORA S. MADAMBA
Uson Associates

SALLY N. KO
Tan Associates

ERWIN S. BALANTE
Davao-Evangelista Agency

ANGELITA R. MARTINEZ
Mm Central 1 Direct

RACHEL E. AGUSTIN
Mm South Direct

SANJANA A. AMARNANI
Bacolod-Sy Agency

MERLINDA P. TAN
Nicdao Associates

ROMEO B. DOLALAS JR
Iligan-Lumbo Agency

SALVADOR M. FERNANDEZ
N. Luzon-Costes Agency

MARK TIMOTHY P. PAGADUAN
Bulacan-Pagaduan Agency

EDA C. BAUTISTA
Ardidon Associates

EDITH J. PRADO
Davao-Huyatid Agency

MELINDA T. IRAN
Antonio Associates

RAMON T. SABLON
Ardidon Associates

MA ISABELITA O. DIZON
Melendres Associates

KENNETH F. CASQUEJO
Bacolod-Sy Agency

PETRONILA B. SADARAN
Uson Associates

AMELITA M. ENIM
Bacolod-Sy Agency

ERLINDA T. FRANCO
Espiritu Associates

ANNA LUISA J. GALMAN
Bataan-Maturino Agency

EMMA MHAE F. ALOS
La Trinidad-Flores Agency

NORMITA G. VENERACION
Bulacan-Pagaduan Agency

NIEVES M. ALEJO
Nueva-Reyes Agency

EDMUNDO D. SUMATRA
Pagadian-Tamala Agency

CEZAR R. GARCIA
Cagayan-Ancheta Agency

AMELIA M. GONZALES
Rizal-Maunahan Agency

NEIL B. JAO
Davao-Hocson Agency

CHARRYVEL R. CARILLO
L. Roque Associates

ROLANDO M. REVILLA, JR.
Laguna-Rodriguez Agency

MELBA F. BADIOLA
Gan Associates

GLORIA V. REYES
Butalon-Zurita Associates

GILBERT I. USON
Uson Associates

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PHILAM LIFE

Del Mundo 51 1955 - 2006

PHILAM LIFE

Leadership At Its Finest

A LEGACY OF AGENCY EXCELLENCE

SAM Lourdes M. Del Mundo
Agency Manager of the Year
Chairman's Cabinet
MDRT
Top Agency-Accident & Health

Lucila Kierulf
Agent of the Year
MDRT- Top of the Table

Ma. Elena Asturias
MDRT - Court of the Table
MDRT Life & Qualifying Member
1st runner-up Top Agent

Nilda Uy
MDRT
1st runner-up
Top Unit Manager-Manila

MDRT (Million Dollar Round Table), CHAIRMAN'S BOARD

Top L-R: Ma Elena Asturias, Lucila Kierulf, Lourdes Del Mundo, Nilda Uy, Ma Luz Vencio, Anunciacion Birog, Zenaida Palmes, Eden Jalosjos, Ma. Antonietta Del Mundo **Bottom Row L-R:** Alma Llorente, Grace Silva *(Chairman's Board)*, Nancy Uy, Rosanna Uy, Domingo Reyes *(Chairman's Board)*, Renato Cuisia, Ma. Concepcion Cuisia, Mary Lou Del Rosario, Salvacion Contreras

PREMIER AGENTS

Platinum: Lourdes Del Mundo, **Gold:** Ma. Antonietta Del Mundo, Eden Jalosjos, Nancy Uy **Silver:** Nilda Uy, Ma. Luz Vencio, Rosanna Uy, Alma Llorente, Ed Bartolata

FOUNDER'S CIRCLE

Top L-R: Lucila Kierulf, Ma. Elena Asturias, Lourdes Del Mundo, Nilda Uy **Bottom L-R:** Zenaida Palmes, Anunciacion Birog, Fe De Dios

LIMRA, International Quality Award

Nilda Uy, Eden Jalosjos, Norma De Venecia

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Top L-R: Ma. Elena Asturias, Nilda Uy, Nelia Laudico

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Top L-R: Ma Antonietta Del Mundo, Eden Jalosjos, Nancy Uy, **Bottom L-R:** Ma. Luz Vencio, Rosanna Uy, Alma Llorente

TAMARAW AWARDEES
(Tamaraw Club & Council)

Clockwise from Top L-R: Reynaldo Birog, Evelyn Tuason, Norma Magpantay, Evangelina Reyes, Belen Quiogue, Luisito Laudico

" I never worry about my job. I do it with commitment, passion and dedication".

-Lourdes M. Del Mundo,
LUTCF
Senior Agency Manager,
MDRT, Premier Agent-
Platinum and
Founder's Circle

What can be more fulfilling than doing what you love best and being recognized as one of the best, if not the best, in your field? For Senior Agency Manager Lourdes "Lulu" Del Mundo, it is truly a glorious experience to see her agency, the Del Mundo Associates, become the number – one agency of Philamlife for the second year in a row. In 2005, the agency has once again proved its commitment to excellence and service by adding several feathers into its cap, including a record number of 18 Million Dollar Round Table qualifiers.

There are no secrets to success, and among the many things, Ms. Del Mundo values the quality of service that one provides to his/her clients. Ms Del Mundo values professional ethics highly and stresses the importance of being "high-touch" more than being "high-tech", an inspiration that she took from Mr. Bob Hughes (one of the speakers in the 10th LUAP anniversary in Singapore") way back in 1984.

Excellent client service is key

"It is very important that we establish both good personal and professional relationship with the clients. When meeting with the client, we have to be prepared, ready, honest and sincere. Clients appreciate if you offer them products that best suit their needs. A product with high premium may not always be the best one to offer," she shares.

Ms Del Mundo asserts that it is important to make a client believe in what you are doing. "I always tell my agents that a client may not always buy from us, but what is important is for him to share our belief of the importance of life insurance."

This concern for clients and the goal of developing her people into good agents are what continuously drive Ms Del Mundo to give her best in her profession, pummeling her agency to greater heights of success. With 51 years of experience, 11 unit managers and more than 200 agents under her belt, Ms Del Mundo can truly expect better things to come.

Beating their best

- Top agency of the Philippine American Life and General Insurance, Co. (Philamlife) for two straight years (2004-2005)
- More than 30 years of agency excellence, commitment and service by providing quality and expert life insurance and financial services to its valued clients, constantly looking for opportunities for growth and innovation to make products and services more accessible to the Filipino community
- Steadfast commitment to growth and development of its leaders and agents by providing venues to continuous learning, trainings and industry's best practices
- Consistently produces awardees and top company producers by being home to innumerable members to the Million Dollar Round Table, (MDRT), Premier Agents, Top of the Table Court of the Table, Tamaraw, International Awardees, among other achievements
- At the helm is Senior Agency Manager Lourdes Del Mundo, the first lady agency manager of Philamlife, who constantly inspires and moulds agency leaders towards paths of excellence and service. She was given the FEU-FERN Professorial Chair Accolade by her unit managers in 2005 as a tribute to her leadership and commitment to excellence
- Its advocacy is to continuously help improve the life of every Filipino family not only by providing services for financial security and protection, but by contributing to socio-civic activities as well. Last year, the agency has actively contributed to special activities, like the Gawad Kalinga and Philamlife Foundation.

Together with the number one insurance company that cares for the Filipino people, it is our commitment to continuously provide the Filipino people quality, reliable and professional financial advisory service.

We do our best. We give our best. We beat our best. Because you deserve nothing less.

The Del Mundo Associates

Rooms 101-102, ALLCO Building, Ortigas Avenue,
Greenhills, 1500 San Juan, Metro Manila

Unit 1201, 12/F Antel Global Corporate Center, No. 3
Julio Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Learn more about us! Know more about the rewarding opportunities in the agency by dropping by at the office or calling us at 721-2394, 687-9100, 722-6367.

PHILAM LIFE
Are You Ready for Life?

AIG®

"WE MOVE PEOPLE UP"

ISAGANI ANTONIO ASSOCIATES, TOP AGENCY BUILDER

With 33 years of experience, the **Isagani Antonio Associates** (IAA), led by **Senior Agency Manager Jose Isagani F. Antonio**, certainly is a trailblazer when it comes to rapid expansion and agency building. Beginning from a vision of a successful career in Philamlife, he surpassed all agencies by consistently leading Philamlife in Agency Sales Performance and Growth.

Seven years ago, the Antonio Associates then embarked on an even greater challenge – the building of agencies to begin a timeless legacy of expansion and growth:

Leonida Roque Associates

December 1, 1999

The LD Roque Associates was IAA's 1st Agency appointment, headed by **Agency Manager Leonida D. Roque** who joined IAA as an agent in 1990.

As a unit supervisor, Nida Roque was based in IAA's San Pedro operations and fast-tracked her management career through consistent recruitment and high sales performance in the area.

Soon, in 1999, the LD Roque Associates was born with 3 agency leaders and a San Pedro Philamlife Agency Office targeted to cater to the needs of clients and policy owners of San Pedro and nearby towns.

Roberto Bernardo Associates

December 1, 2001

Two years later, IAA's Cubao group was also ready to create their own agency path. **Agency Manager Roberto A. Bernardo** joined IAA in 1982, resigning from his teaching profession to become an agent. Soon after, he became a unit supervisor and began building up his group, with his wife and top producer, Ludy, by his side. The Bernardo Associates was born in 2001 and immediately made its mark in Philamlife agency history for its numerous achievements as a Rookie Agency. For 3 years in a row, the agency bagged a Philamlife President's Cup in their category and was already exhibiting the same desire for success as their multi-awarded Mother Agency.

Eduardo Fordan Associates

December 1, 2005

The latest addition to the Agency Building legacy of IAA is the Fordan Associates. **Agency Manager Ed A. Fordan** joined IAA in 1990. A chemist by profession, he made a decision to venture into insurance selling and soon became a top producer and consistent awardee of IAA and Philamlife. As an agent, Ed also actively recruited other agents to join IAA, already demonstrating his leadership potential and his natural ability to motivate and influence others. In Year 2000, he became a Unit Manager, and soon after, the group expanded rapidly from Alabang all the way to Antique, Kalibo and Iloilo. True to his IAA roots, AM Ed Fordan made his mark as one of the fastest-rising agencies of the Company. In 6 years, the Fordan Unit became the Fordan Associates.

THERE ARE MANY WHERE THEY CAME FROM

The Antonio Associates looks to the future by developing more leaders within its ranks.

At the end of FY 2005, there were 14 Unit Managers, any one of whom upon meeting the standard of the company for agency manager, may eventually head his or her own agency.

At the beginning of FY 2006, the Antonio Associates recommended the appointment of 6 Associate Unit Managers (AUMs) to hasten their development as UMs. It also created the new position of Group Leader (GL) whose principal function is to assist the agency in nominating potential and qualified agents from among the people they get in touch with in the course of their selling activities. There are more than 50 GLs but 15 of them committed the most number of trainees up to August 2006.

UM ORLANDO ABANTO

UM ZENAIDA ANTONIO

UM CARMELITA AQUINO

UM AIDA HERNANDEZ

UM LENY MARCELLANA

UM IRENE NUEVO

UM ROGELIO CRISOSTOMO

UM GLICERIA DE LEON

UM EDUARDO FORDAN

UM EDERLINA OLEGARIO

UM ÇESAR OÑATE

UM NOEMI POBLADOR

UM ANGELITA LAUDE

UM MELINDA IRAN

AUM YOLANDA GARCESA

AUM SUSAN PESASICO

AUM RODOLFO BARTOLOME

AUM JUANITO DULFO

AUM THELMA LOYOLA

AUM GLENN LUDOVICE

AUM ARMANDO ORDOÑEZ

AUM ANA MAY REGALA

GL IMELDA DELOS SANTOS

GL SHERWIN CHAN

GL ANGELICA VILVAR

GL LORENZA MAYUGBA

GL VITALIANO FORTES

GL FAITH ESTRABO

GL ROWENA VILLEGAS

GL MELODY PEREGRINO

GL SAMUEL ALEJO

GL EMELITA ABANTO

GL ANNIE CAPULLA

GL CECILIA BARNUEVO

GL EVELYN MENDOZA

GL HELEN NABONG

GL EVELINA BEROYA

OUR TOP PERFORMERS FOR FY 2005

UM ZENAIDA ANTONIO
MDRT*
Associate of the Year
PCAB
Premier Agent

EDITHA PEÑAFLOR
MDRT*
Premier Agent
PCA

CONSOLACION BLANCO
MDRT*
PCA

ANA MAY REGALA
MDRT*
TAMARAW CLUB

JOCELYN SECRETARIO
IQA

AIDA MATTI
COMPACT CHAMPION
TAMARAW CLUB

VIRGILIO HERNANDEZ
TAMARAW CLUB

UM AIDA HERNANDEZ
TAMARAW COUNCIL

UM EDERLINA OLEGARIO
TAMARAW COUNCIL

UM EDUARDO FORDAN
TAMARAW COUNCIL

UM ÇESAR OÑATE
TAMARAW COUNCIL

UM MELINDA IRAN
TAMARAW COUNCIL

CANDIDATE FOR 2005 QUALIFYING MEMBER (membership processing on-going)

ISAGANI ANTONIO ASSOCIATES

Profit from our experience and reputation. Join us.

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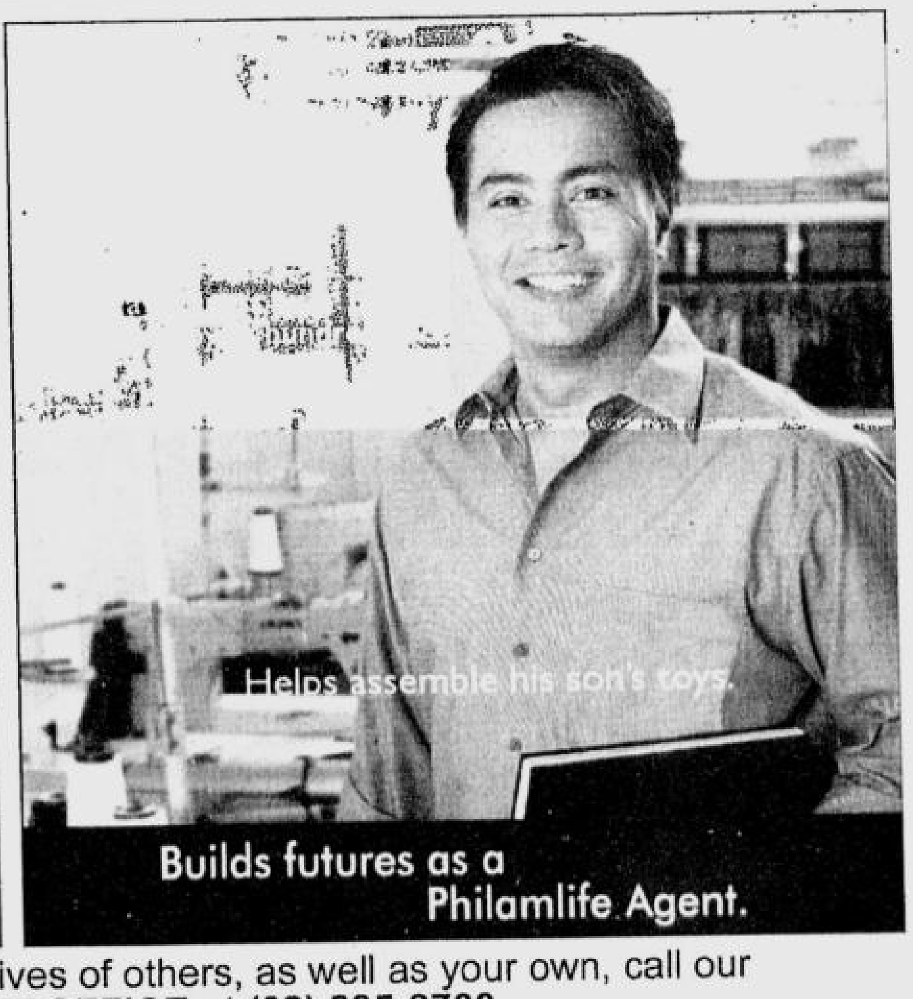

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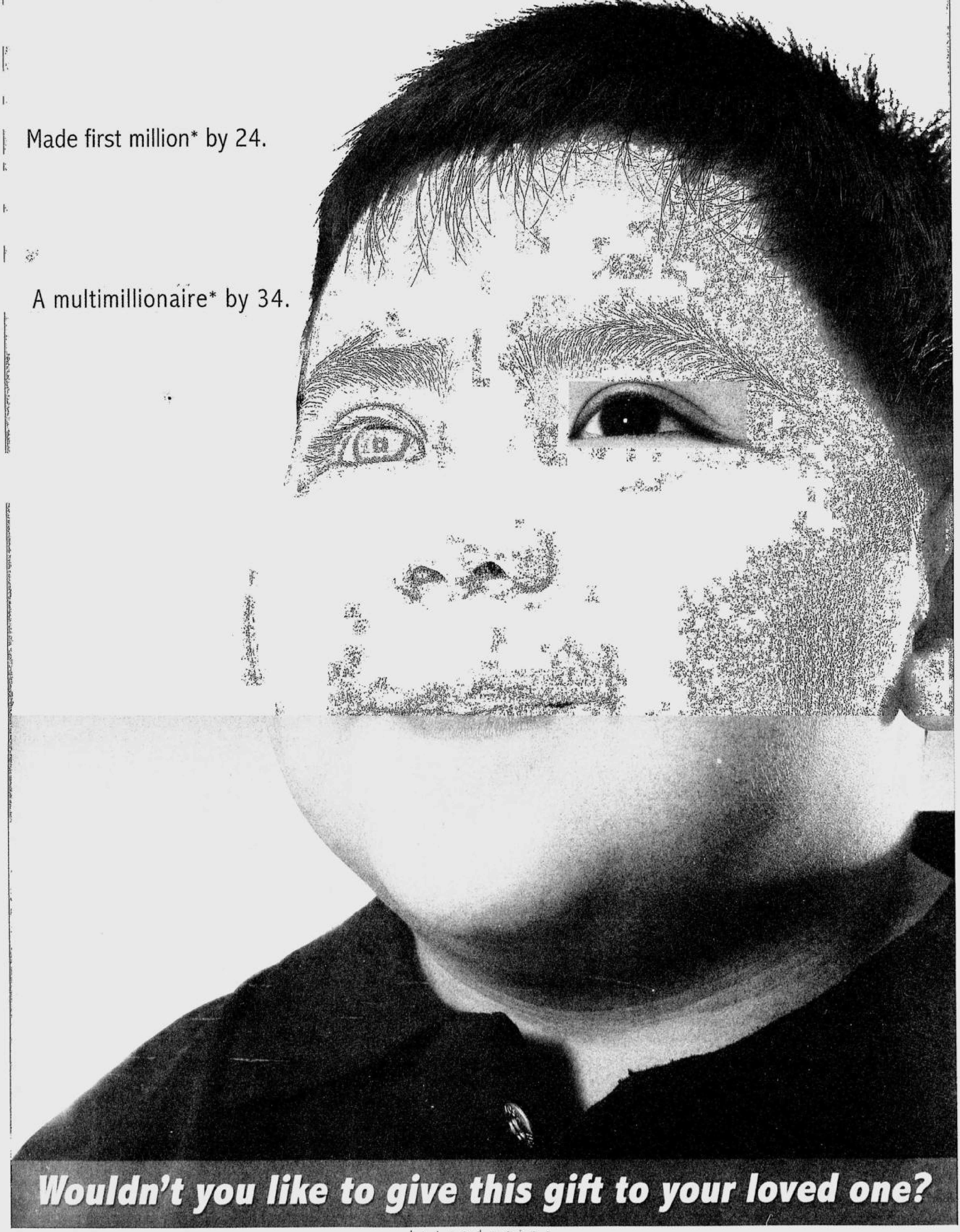

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- Dividends - Get your dividends anytime or accumulate them until age 65 as a substantial retirement fund

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Total Premium (Annual Premium x 5 Years)	*Guaranteed Cash Payout Every 2 Years*	*Retirement Fund At Age 65*	*Lifetime Pension*	*Insurance Coverage*
*P80,885 x 5 = P404,425**	*P30,000* From Age 10*	*P10,800,000**	*P445,000* Starting Age 66*	*P6,100,000* By Age 66*

** Illustration for an insured age 5 with a P500,000 basic face amount, inclusive of dividends. Dividends are dependent on the company's performance and are not guaranteed.*

Let your money actively work for you as you live life to the fullest. Avail of Philamlife's Milestones today.

For more information, call (02) 528-5555.

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